

Drivers told to avoid all alcohol in tough Christmas campaign

By Staff Reporters

Drivers are to be advised not to drink any alcohol this Christmas and New Year as part of a tough campaign launched by the Department of Transport yesterday.

Under the theme "Never drive and drink. You are asking to get caught," the department aired for the first time last night two 10-second television commercials highlighting the sufferings of victims of drinking and driving accidents - as well as the stiff penalties imposed on the drivers.

Their driving is found to be impaired by drink. Mr Lynda Chalker, Minister for Transport, said in a statement launching the campaign: "Just one drink affects your driving ability."

The Department of Transport says that about 30,000 people are killed or injured each year in accidents in which one person involved is above the legal alcohol limit. Last year, in England and Wales nearly 75,000 people were convicted of drink-driving offences.

Other figures showed that 36 per cent of drivers of cars and motor cycles killed in crashes were above the legal limit. That rose to 65 per cent for accidents between 10 pm and 4 am.

Accidents attributed to drinking and driving are estimated to cost more than £100m a year. Mrs Chalker said that the likelihood of being caught drinking and driving will be much greater this Christmas because it will be the first time that the police had new electronic breath-testing devices, Alcolmeter and Intoximeter.

Police strategies

The following police forces have announced their Christmas plans: **Cambridgeshire:** A play dramatizing the dangers of drinking and driving with tours colleges, clubs, factories and offices.

Northumbria: No special plans. **South Yorkshire:** Monitoring accident figures as Christmas approaches, but no special action is planned.

Those have made the process of offenders quicker so that police patrols can now spend more time on the road. The national publicity is being supplemented by local police forces, many of which are staging their own campaigns.



Concert party: Two of the children taking part in the first performance of the Inner London Education Authority's annual Christmas music festival at the Festival Hall, London, yesterday. This year's theme is "It's a Gift" and 12,000 children are expected to attend the performances which continue daily until Thursday. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

More cuts as holiday price war hots up

By John Withrow
Most Mediterranean package tours will be about 10 per cent cheaper next summer because of the price war being waged by big foreign tour operators.

Intasun, Britain's second-biggest tour operator, yesterday announced it was reducing prices by an average of 9 per cent and supplying 230,000 more places in expectation of a rush by cost-conscious holiday-makers.

Broader education urged by report

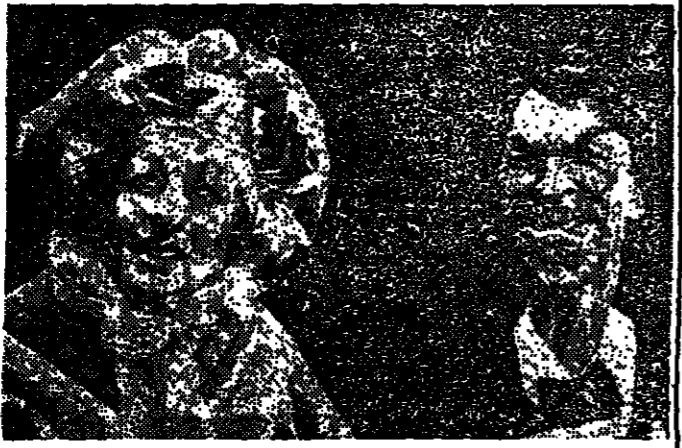
By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent
Children between the ages of 11 and 16 should receive a broad education balanced between vocational, technical and academic aspects, according to a report published yesterday by the Department of Education and Science.

Dartmoor pledge by the Prince

By Craig Seton
The Prince of Wales, who controls 70,000 acres on Dartmoor, says in a report published today that it should not be preserved "in aspic" merely as a curiosity for future generations.

South-east cable bias criticized

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent
The geographical bias of the choice of cable television franchises, which appears to be weighed in favour of the Southeast, has been criticized by the consultants CIT Research, advisers to the Government on telecommunications.



Puppet politicians: Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan as they will appear in the series Spitting Image.

Puppet satire for ITV

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent
A puppet satire show is to be launched this winter on Independent Television, according to programme schedules announced yesterday.

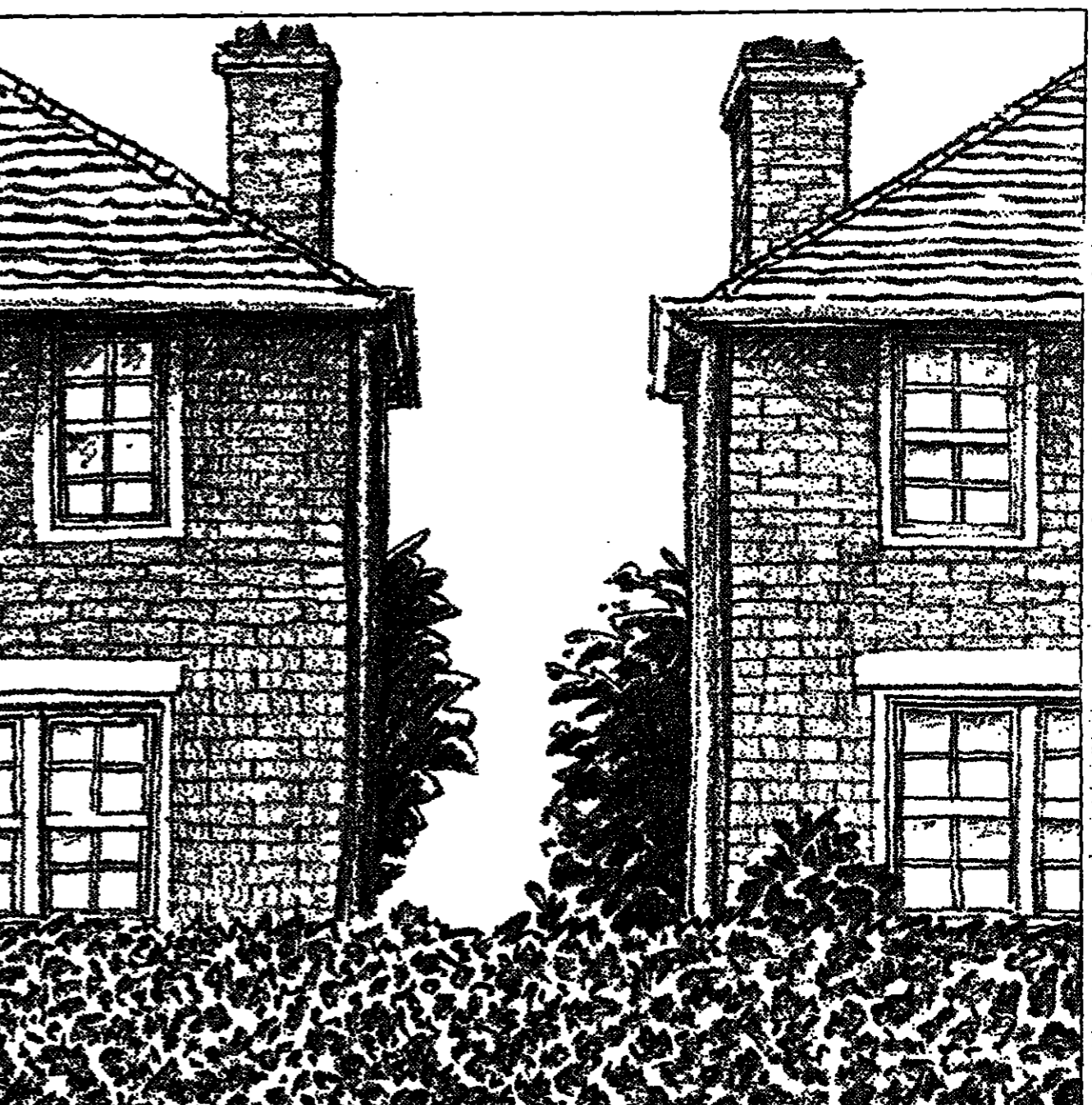
Eleven franchises were awarded nearly two weeks ago by the Government from 37 applications. Commenting on the selection, Mr Patrick Whitten, managing director of the research group, said: "With five of the winners in the extended London area, and another within commuting distance of Paddington, a swathe of 70 per cent of English population, including the Southwest, East Anglia East Midlands and the whole of the North and the Northeast has been given only one licence in Merseyside. This will be a big disappointment to the regions involved, particularly as most of the new investment goes to a part of the country that's been spared the worst rigours of the recession."

Grocery group launches own cigarette

By Kenneth Gosling
A cigarette price war will begin this week with the introduction of a king-size brand by Spar, the independent grocery group. It will cost 89p for a packet of 20.

£35m for new trains approved

By a Staff Reporter
The Government has approved a British Rail plan to spend £35m on new passenger trains for Southern and Eastern region commuter services.



Damages for breast surgery

Mrs Beverley Rees, aged 32, accepted £3,000 agreed damages yesterday in the High Court after she sued the surgeon who carried out an operation to enlarge her breasts.

Rare visitor

A rare pied wheat was seen in Paignton, Devon yesterday 12,000 miles from its winter home in East Africa. Fewer than twenty have been seen in Britain since records began.

Which house with central heating is saving £100 a year?

Although you can't see from the outside, it's the one with cavity wall and loft insulation. For full details on these and many other ways of insulating your home and saving money, simply send for our free booklet.

The Energy Efficiency Office, P.O. Box 702, London SW20 8SZ. Please send a free copy of 'Make the most of your heating.'

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Address: _____

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE

Salesmen lose company cars after tax change

By Jonathan Davies, Financial Correspondent
More than one in ten of Britain's salesmen have had to give up their company cars in the past year, according to a survey of pay and perks sponsored by the Institute of Marketing.

PARLIAMENT December 5 1983

MPs urge minister to recall British troops

MIDDLE EAST

MPs on both sides criticized American action in the Lebanon over the weekend and called for the withdrawal of the British contingent in the peace-keeping force.

The Lebanon welcome the continuing presence of British forces but also do all governments in the region.

will be an opportunity then to have a discussion on a slightly wider front.

Rifkind: Self-defence

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) is there any point in keeping the British force there as a cosmetic cover for an alleged peace-keeping force?

Dalyell: Were we told?

of their own men. It is for them to explain and justify to the world if that is a proper course of action.

Some tasks of Crown Agents may be hived off

OVERSEAS AID

Hiving off some of the activities of the Crown Agents to private sector was one of the options being considered by the Government in its current review of the Agents' affairs.

Crown Agents play in our export business, handling 70,000 orders worth £300m last year? That is our best to protect.

British taxpayer to bail them out? Will he make sure they do the job they are supposed to do?

Powers to control local authorities' spending

SCOTLAND

The Rating Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill has one simple purpose, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said in the Commons as he moved the Bill's second reading.

and to provide the means whereby several valuation anomalies could be removed from the Scottish system.

Courts 'too lenient with rapists'

CRIME

When Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C) said in the Commons that average sentences for rape were of less than three years which showed that the judiciary was unduly lenient with that crime.

Seat belts bring drop in deaths

TRANSPORT

In the first five months of the compulsory wearing of seat belts, deaths and serious injuries to front seat occupants of cars and light vans were down 20 per cent on the same period last year.

Mrs Chalker said she had seen some 100 drivers and even some coach drivers and front seat passengers wearing seat belts.

Commons he was surprised Mr Prescott had not understood the purpose of a dummy figure in a pre-publication copy of the Bill.

Conveyancing monopoly

The Government has not yet made up its mind whether to support a Labour MP's Bill - due to be debated on December 16 - to end the lawyer's monopoly of conveyancing or on what action to take on the divergent recommendations of the Law Commission for England and Wales and the Law Commission for Scotland on conveyancing.

though in the interests of solicitors, it is not in the interests of those who seek to buy and sell land.

Greenham Common

Mr Roland Boyes (Houghton and Washington, Lab) unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate in the Commons on the success of the Greenham Common women at the weekend in penetrating the cruise missile base.

Concern over equal pay regulations

HOUSE OF LORDS

Despite believing that existing legislation on equal pay complies with the EEC's directive, the Government has drafted amending regulations to make Britain fully in accord with the European regulations, the Earl of Gowrie, Minister of State, Privy Council Office, said in the House of Lords in moving approval of the amending regulations.

equal pay for men and women and was firmly against sex discrimination, including that which affected jobs and pay.

stating that the House believed the regulations did not adequately reflect the European Court's decision and the EEC equal pay directive.

£19 to handle blood

There was growing public concern about the proposed handling charge for blood supplied by the NHS to private hospitals, Lord De Freya (C) said at question time in the House of Lords.

sufficient in whole blood but needed to import blood products.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Education (Grants and Awards) Bill, remaining stages. Debate on report of the Select Committee on Procedure (Finance). Lords (2.30): Debate on the Falkland Islands.

Whitehall brief

Cant-hunters in spending study

Whenever a British government calls for a great light, the nation yawns. It happens when Lord Wilson of Rievaulx in the late 1960s wanted the pubs and clubs to echo with the pros and cons of belonging to the EEC.

The Bath cant-hunters reckon that the Whitehall self-constraints by the great spending debate, despite exhortations from on high to conduct one. "The tragedy", Professor Klein explained, "is that Whitehall cannot play with ideas because people say 'No!'"

The Bath cant-hunters reckon that the Whitehall self-constraints by the great spending debate, despite exhortations from on high to conduct one.



Professor Klein (left) and Mr O'Higgins: "Aiming to clear people's minds" (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Ballet group 'disdained' jobs law

The London Festival Ballet company "drove a coach and four horses" through the law when it disdained a ballet dancer's industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Advertisement for Johnnie Walker Red Label Scotch Whisky. Features a large illustration of a man in a top hat and a bottle of whisky. Text includes: 'Guess who's back?', 'It's always nice to welcome back an old friend. And Johnnie Walker Red Label, recognised as the world's most distinctive Scotch Whisky, is back at home in Britain. Obviously, there's only one way to celebrate. Cheers! Johnnie Walker Red Label. Recognised everywhere.'

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Support for EEC levy as farm spending soars to £5m an hour

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

If all the increased milk production in the EEC since 1981 were to be put in bulk tankers, they would stretch in an unbroken line all the way from London to Athens and back again, and there would still be some left over.

That graphic illustration of the scale of the Community's surpluses was given yesterday by Mr Alan Wilkinson, deputy to Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the Community's Budget Commissioner, at a seminar at the Royal Smithfield Show.

Present spending on the common agricultural policy was running at £5m an hour, he said.

Mr Wilkinson made clear that there could be no question of a supplementary budget next year, as happened this year. Farmers had to recognize that if no agreement was reached on placing a ceiling on expenditure, the CAP would run out of funds and they would not be paid.

Mr Michael Jopling, British Minister of Agriculture, delivered a similar message at a press conference. In the past there have been only two countries, by which he clearly meant Britain and West Germany, which had resisted before agreeing to more expensive new schemes.

"But now I find a growing consciousness that we cannot go on this way", he said. "There is

I think, agreement that something has to be done and that we face difficult times in the future.

"Farmers understand that they do not have a God-given right to produce more and more food which we can neither eat at home nor sell abroad and that the time has come to return the CAP to rationality and reality."

There were about 900,000 tonnes of butter and more than 1,000,000 tonnes of skimmed milk powder in intervention storage. The British Government had long favoured price reductions as the best way of increasing consumer demands, but given that the best it could hope for was a price freeze, it had to start thinking in terms of a super levy on excess production.

It was important that there should be none of the exemptions which had made the co-responsibility levy so unsatisfactory. The Irish Republic was almost certain to try to veto the super levy proposal, but "I am anxious that the agonies should be felt equally by all members of the Community", Mr Jopling said.

Mrs Marion Cooper, of the Consumers Association, told the seminar that the way EEC handled its finances was not only complicated but also unfair, illogical and almost impossible to control. The money spent would keep open

many hospital beds and would pay the salaries of many doctors.

Mr Simon Gourlay, vice-president of the National Farmers' Union, said that although the budgetary cost of the CAP was substantial, it was equivalent to only about one half per cent of the Community's gross domestic product.

British farmers and growers have made a significant but sadly undervalued contribution to the British economy and must be more forceful in publicizing their achievements, Sir Richard Butler, president of the farmers' union, told the conference (The Press Association reports).

"Farmers, by their increased efficiency, have played an important part in the battle against inflation, and consumers can purchase a greater variety of high quality food than ever before at prices that are falling in real terms", he said.

In the five years up to 1982, food prices rose at an average rate of 3.2 per cent a year less than the retail price index.

"Agriculture is a major employer. On its continued success hinges the jobs of the 9 per cent of the employed labour force which depend directly or indirectly on British agriculture, for their employment", he said.



£100,000 damages for gas victim's family

The family of a senior army officer who was killed by carbon monoxide gas from a damaged gas central heating system were awarded £100,000 agreed damages at the High Court in London yesterday.

Lieutenant-Colonel Basil Beattie, aged 48, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, died in December, 1976, while staying at a fellow officer's flat in Highgate, north London. Mr Justice Stuart-Smith was told the judge that the British Gas Corporation, which had covered the central heating system with its "two star" maintenance plan, had agreed to pay the damages.

Mr Cole said that Colonel Beattie went to the flat suffering from influenza. He closed the windows, turned the heating to constant setting and went to bed. What he did not know was that a leak in the flue from the gas boiler was causing the hot-air system's fan to blow a mixture of warm air and boiler exhaust into the rooms.

MI5 officer sent for trial on spy charges

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Michael Bettaney, a middle-ranking officer in MI5, was committed for trial yesterday on espionage charges including passing on assessments of Soviet intelligence networks in Britain and details of the expulsion of three Russians.

Mr Bettaney, aged 33, of Victoria Road, Coulsdon, Surrey, was sent for trial at the Central Criminal Court after a brief hearing at Horseferry Road Magistrate's Court, London. He faces six charges under the Official Secrets Acts of 1911 and 1920.

He is charged with passing on information about the expulsion of three Russians on April 3 this year. On the same day he is also accused of acting preparatory to passing on "precise arrangements" about the communication of classified matter.

On June 12 Mr Bettaney is accused of passing on an official assessment of Soviet intelligence services operating in the United Kingdom and a second count of acting preparatory to passing on arrangements for communicating classified information.

On July 10 he is accused of acting preparatory to passing on information by pressing for a response to his proposals of April 3 and June 12. Under the sixth charge he is alleged between December 31 and September 17 to have collected information calculated to be useful to an enemy.

Mr Lawrence Grant, for Mr Bettaney, was granted an extension of legal aid for the trial which is expected next year.

Before the court rose the magistrate, Mr Kenneth Harington, told the press: "Please be careful about publishing anything which might prejudice the conduct of the trial."

Queen's cousin burgled

The Queen's first cousin, Mr Gerald Lascelles, was counting the cost yesterday of a break-in at his Cotswolds home in which antiques, bedrooms and family silver, thought to be worth at least £25,000 were stolen.

Mr Lascelles, aged 59, the son of the Earl of Harewood, had been away from his home, Clifden House, Rendcombe, near Cheltenham, with his wife, Elizabeth, spending the weekend with relatives in Yorkshire.

"The thieves seemed to know exactly what was what and where it was", Mr Lascelles said. "They took only the better pieces and they knew where the strongroom was located, and burrowed through a floor to get into it."

Police think a well organized gang using a large vehicle to remove tables, chairs and more than fifty other items must have been responsible.

SBS expert given marines command

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

New promotions will affect the Royal Marines' highest echelons during the next few months.

Lieutenant General Sir Stuart Pringle, the victim of an IRA bomb in October, 1981, retires in April as Commandant General, to be succeeded by the present Major General Royal Marines Commando Forces, Michael Wilkins, who will be promoted to Lieutenant-General.

He will be succeeded next February by Colonel John St John Grey, aged 49, the Royal Marines' colonel who is now responsible for operations and plans in the Ministry of Defence.

Colonel Grey will take the rank of Major-General, but that does not mean he skips the rank of Brigadier. Unlike the army, in the Royal Marines brigadier is not a formal rank, but is more a courtesy title attached to certain appointments.

General Wilkins, a tall, lean man spent several years in the late 1950s in the Special Boat Section, which is a Royal Marine equivalent of the Army's Special Air Service Regiment. He is thought to be the first SBS man to achieve the marine's top appointment.

Much of his early experience was in the Far East. It was not until his middle forties that he became directly involved in what has become the Marines' main speciality, arctic warfare.

At the time of the attack on Sir Stewart all three held appointments in the Ministry of Defence: Sir Stewart as Commandant General, General Wilkins as Chief of Staff, and Colonel Grey as Military Secretary, in which role he had

special responsibility for promotions and appointments.

While Sir Stewart was in hospital the three used to meet occasionally by his bedside to discuss appointments and propositions.

One of their main preoccupations during the next few months is likely to be attempts to remedy deficiencies in 3 Commando Brigade's supporting arms, revealed during the Falklands conflict.

Although their "yomp" across east Falkland enormously enhanced the marines' reputation, it also showed that they did not possess enough air-defence systems, adequate artillery, engineering and reconnaissance support. Those had to be supplied from outside 3 Commando Brigade.

The Ministry of Defence is believed to be considering providing or improving those supporting arms as an integral part of the brigade.

If a major war in Europe seemed in prospect 3 Commando Brigade would be one of the first British units to respond, with the bulk being shipped to Norway.

In those circumstances there would probably not be time to augment it and achieve a full integration with either territorial or regular army units.

It can, therefore, be argued that the brigade should be enhanced so that it incorporates all the support needed to function autonomously.

That would imply the provision of a battery of Rapier ground-to-air missiles, light armoured reconnaissance vehicles and heavier artillery to augment the existing light field guns, and perhaps a second regular squadron of engineers.



Major-General Michael Wilkins (left); Colonel John St John Grey and Commandant General Sir Stewart Pringle.

Picking up a penguin costs £700

David Worsley had to pay £700 yesterday for picking up a penguin after a night's drinking.

Worsley, aged 20, a butcher, went for an early morning stroll to sober up, magistrates at Southport, Lancashire, were told.

Mr Michael Wilding, for the prosecution, said that Worsley climbed the Southport fairground big dipper, but fell and landed in the zoo alongside the penguin compound.

Worsley said in a statement that he scooped up Percy the Penguin and put him in a wire mesh litter bin.

He said: "I went back to the car with the penguin in the bin and put him in my mate's boot."

Worsley said they drove home but the next day he and his father went to Southport sea front and left the penguin in a plastic bucket tipped on its side. However, the penguin, a rare Humboldt, disappeared.

Worsley, of Meadowcroft Farm, Walsley, Bury, was fined £100 and ordered to pay £600 for Percy's replacement.

Warning on 'house for sale' attacks

A judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday gave a warning to women with houses for sale never to allow unknown men into their homes.

Judge Peire jailed Richard Blake, aged 30, a soldier, for a total of eight years for indecent assault and other offences committed after he was allowed into houses as a prospective buyer.

The judge said: "I hope no married couple, where the lady is alone seeking to sell a house will ever invite a lone man in to look around. The dangers are apparent."

Blake, a REME corporal, of Lucia Park, Bordon, Hampshire, had admitted indecent assault, robbery, burglary and assault with intent to rob.

The court was told that Blake was allowed into homes at Shepperton, London, and Ash Vale, Surrey, as a prospective buyer. He broke into a third house in Grayswood, Surrey. In each case he assaulted the woman of the house, having made sure her husband would be out.

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And not by a few pounds. By as much as £273. Prices now start at just £5,052* - yet the Transit LWB has never offered you more.

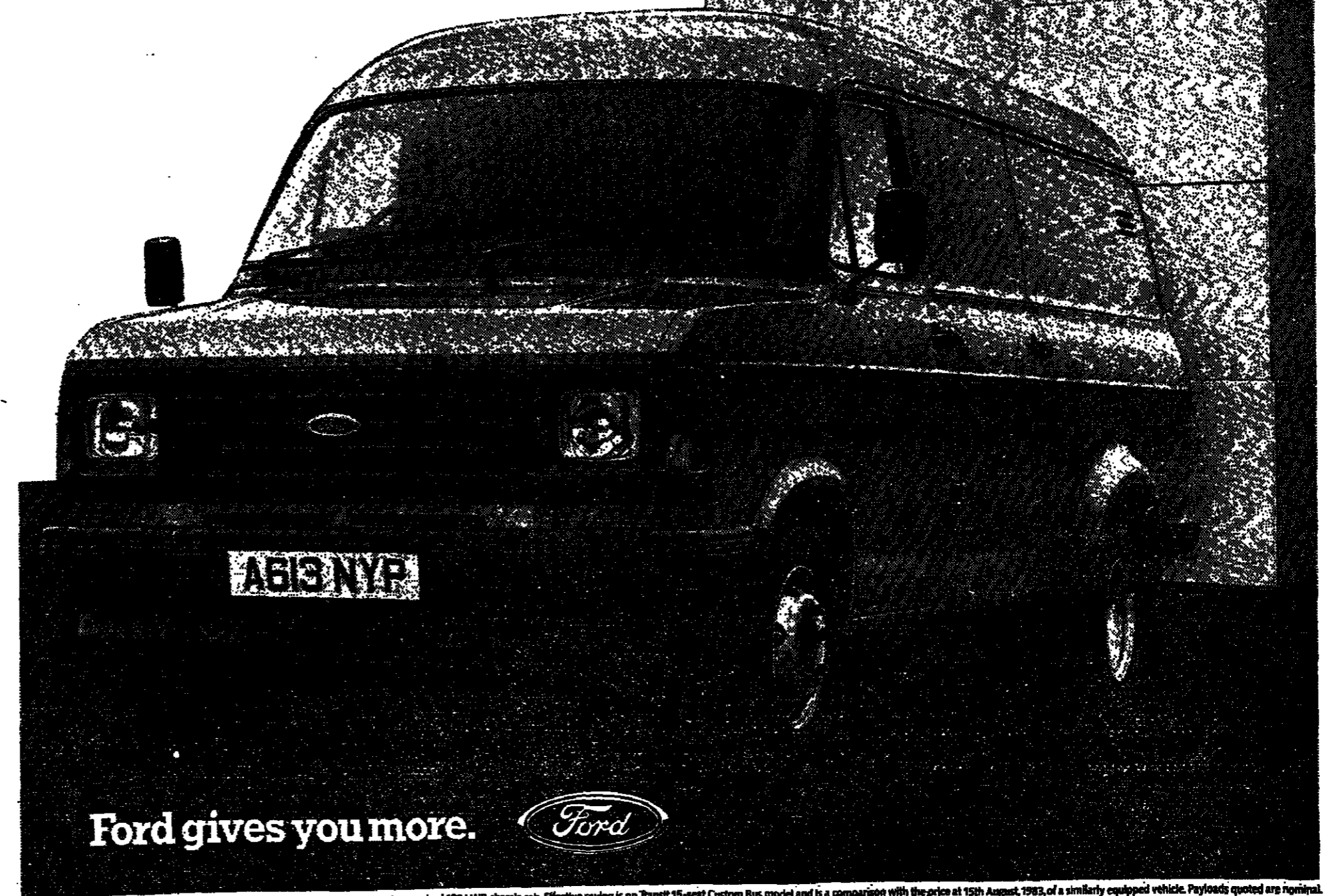
Under the bonnet, maintenance-free batteries and microwave-timed breakerless ignition combine to cut operating costs.

The cab is more carlike and comfortable than ever. Steering effort is reduced by 20%, and the overdrive option gives relaxed economy at speed.

While outside, new more aerodynamic styling further reduces fuel bills, cutting drag to saloon car levels.

The loadspace, though, could hardly be improved: up to 16.24 cu. metres is available if you put a Luton body on our chassis cab. You can save hundreds, thousands on a fleet, so see your dealer. It all goes to show that Britain can still give you more, for less.

FORD TRANSIT LWB



Ford gives you more. *Price quoted is maximum retail price excluding VAT, number plates and delivery of a standard 100 LWB chassis cab. Effective saving is on Transit 15-seat Custom Bus model and is a comparison with the price at 15th August, 1983, of a similarly equipped vehicle. Payloads quoted are nominal. For full details see October 1983 Ford Transit brochure ref. FB 661.

Andropov back in business after illness, Kremlin says

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov is "recovering from an illness" but carrying out a full range of party and state functions, according to a senior Soviet official.

Mr Leonid Zamyatin did not say when Mr Andropov would return to public view. He has not been seen since the middle of August and did not appear on Red Square for the annual November 7 parade.

Mr Zamyatin, the head of the Central Committee international information department, yesterday referred to a Kremlin statement in October which said Mr Andropov was suffering from a cold.

Asked if he was suggesting that the Soviet leader had been absent for 110 days because of a cold, Mr Zamyatin became angry and said reports of a serious operation were "in-situations which do not correspond to reality".

He added enigmatically: "I have already said all that it is possible to state officially" - taken by some observers to mean that Mr Andropov's illness had been more serious than admitted.

Mr Zamyatin did not say whether Mr Andropov would take the chair at forthcoming sessions of the Central Committee and Supreme Soviet, Russia's "parliament". Reports from Bonn over the weekend said West German government officials had been told that Mr Andropov would re-emerge next Saturday.

Asked who had been in charge of defence matters, including nuclear decisions while Mr Andropov was incapacitated, Mr Zamyatin said the President continued to act as chairman of the Supreme Defence Council as well as party leader and head of state.

There are reports that Mr Andropov returned to work recently on a part-time basis. The word "recovering" also means convalescing in Russian and suggests that the President has not resumed full command.

Mr Zamyatin was speaking at a press conference on the future of the Soviet-American arms talks. Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the Chief of Staff, and Mr George Kornienko, the Deputy Foreign Minister, described the abandoned talks on medium-range missiles as a dead letter and dismissed suggestions that medium-range missiles might be included in the parallel talks on strategic arms reduction (Start), which are continuing. Marshal Ogarkov hinted that the Start talks may also collapse.

Official comments on Kremlin leaders' health are rare, although the authorities are aware of Western concern at a time of East-West tensions.

Unusually, Tass included Mr Zamyatin's remarks about Mr Andropov's health in its English-language report - but the passage is thought unlikely to appear in today's Moscow papers.

South Africans capture white army defector

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A South African Army officer who defected to Mozambique seven months ago seeking political asylum has been arrested in South Africa after flying back apparently to try to see his wife and baby daughter.

Lieutenant Gerald Eckert, aged 24, of the Army Medical Service, was arrested by military police at Jan Smuts airport, near Johannesburg, on Sunday night as he tried to slip back into the country unnoticed to see his estranged wife, Veronica, and their daughter who will be a year old this month.

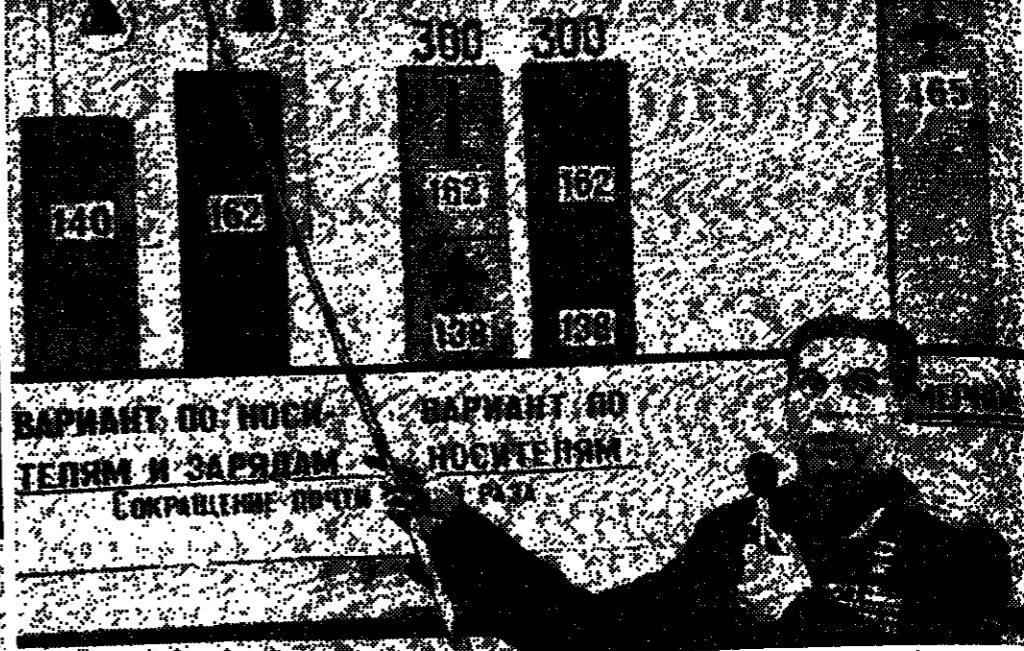
A military spokesman said yesterday he would be charged with desertion.

Lieutenant Eckert, who was born in Germany, crossed the border into Mozambique last May five days after South African jets raided Maputo, the capital, in reprisal for the African National Congress car bomb attack on Air Force headquarters in Pretoria which killed 20 people.

As a male nurse in a Pretoria military hospital he had no access to any secrets but he said in Maputo that as a privileged white in South Africa he could not live with his conscience.



Top brass: General Bernard Rogers, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe (left) and Sir William Staveley, Commander-in-Chief Channel and Eastern Atlantic, for a meeting of the Soviet General Staff, comparing Soviet and United States arms reduction proposals at a press conference in Moscow.



Joining Admiral Wesley McDonald, Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, and Admiral Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, Chief of the Soviet General Staff, comparing Soviet and United States arms reduction proposals at a press conference in Moscow.

East-West talks high on Shultz agenda

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, will discuss with Nato foreign ministers in Brussels this week whether an East-West conference on European disarmament in Stockholm on January 17 should begin at Foreign Minister level.

Such an opening could provide Mr Shultz with an opportunity to renew his bilateral dialogue with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister. Mr Shultz, however, not said whether he will hold such talks nor whether he will attend.

He leaves here today on a week-long tour of West Germany, Belgium, Tunisia, Morocco and Portugal for talks with their leaders on East-West relations, arms control issues and Lebanon and North Africa.

Any meeting between Mr Shultz and Mr Gromyko would be the first since last month's Soviet walkout at the Geneva intermediate range nuclear forces (INF) negotiations.

The two had a frosty exchange at their last meeting in Madrid during the European security conference in September after the Soviet shooting down of the South Korean airliner.

Warsaw Pact meets in Sofia

Belgrade (Reuter) - Warsaw Pact defence ministers gathered in Sofia yesterday for their first joint assessment of the deployment of new US nuclear missiles in West Europe and last month's suspension of the Geneva medium-range missile talks.

The meeting was called amid growing East-West tension caused by the arms build-up in Europe and escalation of the fighting in Lebanon, where US aircraft have attacked positions held by Soviet-backed Syrian troops.

The official Bulgarian news agency, BTA, reported the arrival of ministers from Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania, to join the Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Dmitry Ustinov who flew in on Sunday.

All were met by the Bulgarian Defence Minister, General Dobri Dzhurov. The Commander-in-Chief of Warsaw Pact forces, Marshal Viktor Kulikov, is also attending.

BTA gave no further details of the meeting but Western diplomats in Sofia believed it would continue today after starting yesterday.

The Eastern block has condemned the siting of US cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Western Europe, which began in Britain and West Germany last month, and President Andropov has announced countermeasures.

These include speeding up the deployment of new-generation Soviet medium-range missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, abandoning a self-imposed freeze on SS20 missiles targeted on Western Europe, and deploying sea-launched missiles close to US territory.

Western diplomats said the Sofia meeting could bring a rethink of tactics at two East-West arms forums still in process - the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start) in Geneva between the US and

West sends arms dialogue signal

President Andropov said last month that the new missiles would be sited in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Military sources said the European ministers would consider the idea of merging the interrupted Geneva talks on medium range missiles with the US-Soviet talks on strategic arms as a way of getting Moscow back to the negotiating table.

The West Europeans want the meetings to send a clear signal to Moscow that the West remains ready for dialogue on arms control and broader East-West cooperation while maintaining a strong defence.

The "Eurogroup" session, covering all European members of the Alliance except France, Spain and Iceland, began after Nato military chiefs heard an intelligence report on the transfer of Western high technology to the Soviet block.

Bokassa asks France for residence permit

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the former President of the Central African Republic, who arrived unexpectedly in Paris on Sunday night with 15 of his 54 children, his wife, and 20 other women, has asked the French Government for permission to live permanently in France. He already owns substantial property here, including several chateaux.

However, France is not at all keen to harbour such an unpredictable and troublesome guest who only a week ago was plotting to return to power in his native country, where he was deposed as Emperor four years ago with French help in the famous "Barracuda Operation", after a series of increasingly appalling atrocities.

M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, said in a radio interview yesterday morning that it was not desirable that M Bokassa should remain in France, and that the Government was therefore looking for other countries which would be willing to receive him.

M Bokassa, who has served in the French Army, has always claimed to have French citizenship. However, M Cheysson insisted yesterday that the French courts did not accept that claim. "He is a foreigner who can therefore be asked to leave France," he said.

Immediately after his overthrow in 1979, M Bokassa sought refuge in France, but was refused permission to stay on account of his "serious repeated violations of human rights". He went instead to the Ivory Coast, where President Houphouët-Boigny agreed to receive him after a personal request from President Giscard d'Estaing.

The final straw was the revelation last week of plans for a coup d'etat. A Caravelle aircraft actually took off from Paris on November 26 with the organizer of the coup, M Roger Delpey, a French writer and long-time friend and confidant of M Bokassa, a dozen mercenaries, and several journalists. It was due to pick up M Bokassa in Abidjan before flying on to the Central African Republic, where M Bokassa was due to be reinstated as Emperor. However, the French intelligence services warned President Houphouët-Boigny of the aircraft's imminent arrival, and it was intercepted.

M Bokassa, who is at present staying at his chateau on the south-west outskirts of Paris, said in a statement issued through his lawyer that he would refuse all offers of asylum in any country save France or the Central African Republic.

She not only misses the 27 bus. She misses you.



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Shamir denies US deal as fears grow of superpower conflict

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday denied reports of a secret pact with America to oust Syria from Lebanon.

In an effort to allay growing fears at home and abroad of increased warfare with Syria and the possibility of a superpower confrontation in the Middle East, Mr Shamir told the Knesset: "Many incorrect rumours and baseless interpretations have been spread regarding what was said in Washington."

"Nothing was agreed in these talks which has not been made public. Israel did not take on any military commitments as certain panic-mongers have claimed."

There is scepticism in the Israeli press and among opposition politicians about the earlier denials from Jerusalem and Washington that a new era of coordinated military action against the Syrian forces in Lebanon has begun.

"Tomorrow the Government will face a motion of no-confidence tabled by the small Israeli Communist Party which yesterday said events in Lebanon could lead to a world war. Although the Government will survive, the occasion could provide a focus for criticism of its recent revival of the policy of air strikes inside Syrian-held territory in Lebanon."

The respected Tel Aviv newspaper, *Haaretz*, argued yesterday that it was difficult to believe that the US and Israeli air forces had acted independently in their weekend air strikes. At *HaMishmar*, the paper of the left-wing Mapam Party, said: "The danger of a new war is at hand... it is not too late to withdraw from this unholy alliance."

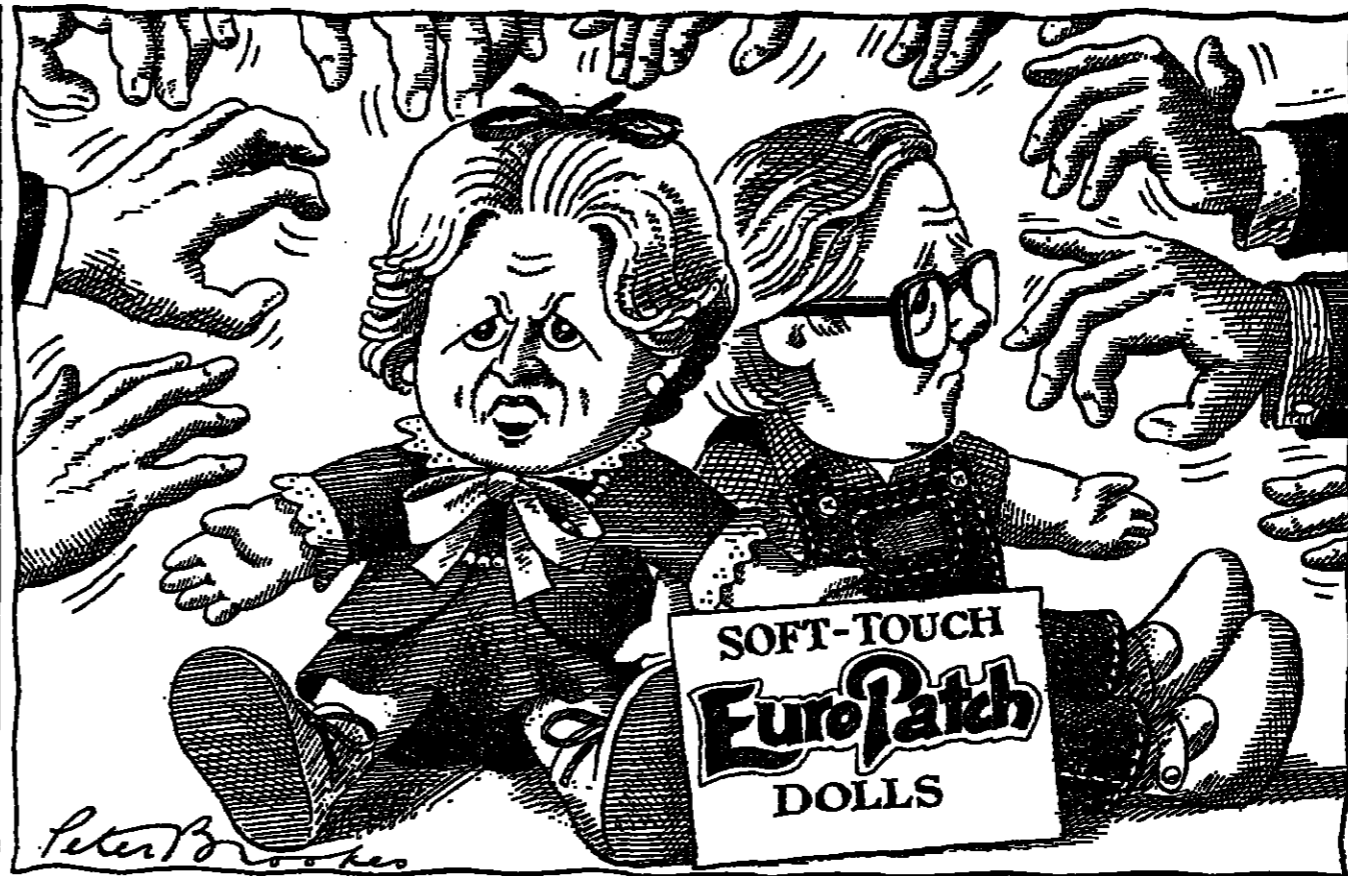
The focus of the Prime Minister's address was to try to eliminate suspicion. "There are those both here and abroad who have expressed fears of entanglements following the deeper cooperation between Israel and the US," he said.

"These fears are groundless. The cooperation between our two countries is good for Israel, for the US and for the entire region, as has been proven in the past."

"The murderous attack on the American Marines and the attack on our security forces in Tyre a short time later created a bond of common destiny between the two peoples and strengthened even further the friendship which has existed for a long time," Mr Shamir said.

In a related move, the Foreign Ministry issued a briefing paper outlining what it described as "an unprecedented Syrian military build-up aimed at attaining a decisive military balance over Israel."

It alleged that 7,000 Soviet advisers were stationed in Syria and that defence spending was



"The Community is far too greedy"

Gowon gets a warm welcome in Lagos

Lagos (Reuter) - General Yakubu Gowon, the former Nigerian military ruler, was given a warm welcome when he returned to Nigeria after more than eight years of exile in Britain. Police used batons to beat back crowds as they broke through a security barrier at Lagos Airport and besieged their former leader.

General Gowon, who was overthrown in 1975, told reporters that he had no intention of going into party politics.

Geneva plea

Geneva - A request to Moscow to "make it your new year resolution to come back to the negotiating table in Geneva" was made yesterday by Lady Olga Maitland, chairman of Women and Families for Defence. She had a two-hour meeting with officials at the Soviet diplomatic mission here.

\$4m Christmas

Beverly Hills, California (AP) - No ordinary boughe of holly deck the halls of the Beverly Hills Cartiers. Its shop here has adorned an unassuming spruce with diamond earrings, bracelets, necklaces, sapphire rings, rubies and pearls worth more than \$4m (about £2.7m).

Bomb escape

Paris (AP) - Mr Ara Toranian, leader of the National Armenian Movement, was slightly injured here by the explosion of a bomb attached to his car. He escaped injury in a similar attempt eight months ago.

Space chat

Bonn (Reuter) - The voices of President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl were beamed on board the orbiting shuttle *Colombia* in a satellite link-up to celebrate US-European cooperation in manned space flight.

Panda coin

Peking (AP) - China issued a silver panda coin to honour International Giant Panda Year. It will give part of the earnings to the World Wildlife Fund.

Trainer killed

Leer (AP) - A tiger attacked and killed an animal trainer at a circus winter camp in this northwest German town. Police shot the enraged animal.

A cut above

Bangkok (Reuter) - Birth control campaigners claimed a world record after organizing a nine-hour event in which 1,190 men were given vasectomies by 30 surgeons.

Walesa plea for end to sanctions on Poland

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity and Nobel peace laureate, appealed yesterday to the West to lift economic sanctions imposed on Poland almost two years ago after the declaration of martial law.

The plea follows discussions with his advisers and brings him into line with criticism voiced by both the Pope and the Polish Catholic hierarchy.

Less comfortably, the surprise statement by Mr Walesa aligns him with the declared policy of the Polish Government. Sanctions should be ended because what Poland needs now is not losses of millions of dollars but aid of billions of dollars, Mr Walesa said in Gdansk.

But he rejected Government claims that the financial loss to Poland had been huge although the situation could deteriorate seriously unless sanctions were lifted.

Mrs Zofia Kalisz, a Communist deputy in the Sjem (Parliament) presenting the Bill, said that the idea would be to give the Government more flexibility in dealing with the threat of internal unrest in Poland.

Although nobody mentioned it in the parliamentary debate, the measures have come just in time for a delicate period during which food prices will be increased and dissidents put on trial.

Nicaragua poll plan backed

From Martha Honey, San José, Costa Rica

American diplomats in Managua are calling the Sandinista Government's announcement on Sunday of elections in 1985 and the granting of an amnesty to exiles a small step in the process of establishing democracy in Nicaragua.

Mr Anthony Quainton, US Ambassador to Nicaragua, said that the decree, which was read by Señor Daniel Ortega, the leader of the junta, to an extraordinary session of the Council of State, represented a small step, but there was still a long way to go.

Privately, however, American diplomats in Managua say this and other recent concessions are very significant. In the past US diplomats in Nicaragua have often been more sympathetic towards the Sandinistas than have been Reagan Administration officials in Washington.

Recently the Sandinista leaders have eased press censorship, sent home thousands of

Farmers voice plight in Athens

From Mario Mediano and Ian Murray, Athens

Italian, Irish and Greek farmers have added colour to the drab proceedings of the EEC's Athens summit by staging separate demonstrations to protest against plans for greater thrift in the Community's spending on agriculture.

Over 1,000 jovial Italians from two conservative unions of farmers, donning tricolour scarves and blowing police whistles, marched across the centre of Athens to the Zappeion Hall, where the

leaders of the Ten were deliberating their problems in splendid isolation.

They unfurled Italian flags and waved banners protesting that they were being made to pay for the errors of others. Some dangled large cow-bells and to puzzled Athenian passers-by they handed leaflets apologizing for the disturbance, but assuring them that "we are doing this for your own good."

Only 54 Irish dairy farmers came to Athens (at £1,000 a head) but they made their mark by positioning themselves so that every delegation that came to the Zappeion Hall for Monday's session, saw them and read their banners. One pleaded: "Milk is my livelihood. Don't kill me."

Mr John Barry, the president of the Irish Cooperative Organization Society, who led the group, said they represented 77,000 dairy farmers of whom 8,000 probably the most successful would go bankrupt, if the Community cut down milk production.

Pretoria sees no Soweto setback

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Despite hardly more than 10 per cent of the voters turning out to elect Soweto's first town council, the South African Government yesterday refused to admit that its "new deal" for urban blacks has been rejected.

Dr Piet Koorhof, the Minister of Cooperation and Development, described it as "progress" compared with a six per cent poll in 1978 for a now defunct Community Council.

He said an average 21 per cent poll country-wide in 23 elections so far for black local authorities was "reasonable" compared with the traditionally low turn-out in white municipal elections.

Black leaders, however, claimed the results represented rejection of the Black Local Authorities' Act under which black town councils will have virtually the same powers as white municipalities. However, they will have to raise the rates to fulfil their promises to electors.

Mr Lybon Mabaso, president

Travel curbs eased

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Restrictions on travel between Kenya and South Africa, imposed earlier this year, have been eased; but the Kenyan authorities have introduced special visas for Kenyan residents wishing to visit South Africa, and for South African residents coming here.

When the controls were first introduced, some foreign tourists arriving here via South Africa were refused entry. The Tourism Minister, Mr Maina Wanjigi, says this is being "rectified" and genuine tourists from other parts of the world will not be inconvenienced, even if they travel here via South Africa.

Kenya has imposed a complete boycott on trade with South Africa since becoming independent in 1963, but has allowed foreign airlines, including British Airways, to fly to and from South Africa via Nairobi.

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MINOLTA

Baby Jane Doe case ensnares parents, courts and Reagan

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Baby Jane Doe lies in her hospital cot, around her rages a fierce controversy. Her parents, doctors, the court and the Reagan Administration are caught up in the question of who should decide whether she lives or dies.

Baby Jane - her name is pseudonym and her identity a secret - was born eight weeks ago with several severe defects. She has an abnormally small head and brain, excess fluid on the brain and spina bifida and an incompletely formed spine.

Doctors at the hospital in Long Island, New York, told her parents that without surgery she would die within two years. If she has a series of operations she could live for 20 years but would be completely disabled and severely retarded.

After consulting doctors and clergy, her parents said there should be no surgery. But their decision came to the attention of a right-to-life group called Birthright who alerted a lawyer. He obtained a court order instructing doctors to operate, but Baby Jane's parents appealed and the order was overturned.

Then the Reagan Administration became involved in an unprecedented way. It said that failure to operate violated Baby Jane's civil rights and demanded to see the hospital records of her case. The hospital refused to hand them over and the Government sued the hospital.

The judge rejected the Government's application to see the records. He said the hospital could have performed

surgery but the question turned on parental consent. And the parents, he said, had made a reasonable decision "based on genuine concern for the best interest of the child."

The Government appealed and the case is now being considered by three judges in New York. The Government's attempt to intervene in a private dilemma has helped to stoke the controversy. The Administration is being criticized for high-handedness.

Last year, after the case of a baby with Down's Syndrome who died after his parents said they did not want it treated, the Administration ordered new rules for hospital nurseries and maternity wards.

The rules called for notices to be posted in nurseries saying that failure to feed or care for handicapped babies was illegal. Telephone "hotlines" were set up so that any failures to do so could be reported to Washington. A court later struck down the new rules.

The case of Baby Jane Doe has raised many disturbing questions. Right-to-life groups see it as an important test case. Other people are concerned about the Government's interference in complex moral and medical questions.

And argument goes on about what should be done with very seriously handicapped children whose lives would be distressingly blighted if they were allowed to survive despite their parents deciding that they should not be treated.



King and country: King Juan Carlos of Spain addressing the lower House of Parliament yesterday to mark the fifth anniversary of the return of democracy.

Devastating guerrilla warfare

Rebels without a cause prove to be experts at disruption

In a second article on Mozambique, Stephen Taylor, recently in Maputo, describes the character of the guerrilla war that is undermining the country.

After years of sporadic guerrilla warfare, Mozambican insurgents four weeks ago introduced a dangerous element in their conflict against the Frelimo Government, swooping on a camp in the northern Zambezia province where they killed 20 Soviet mining technicians and abducted another 23.

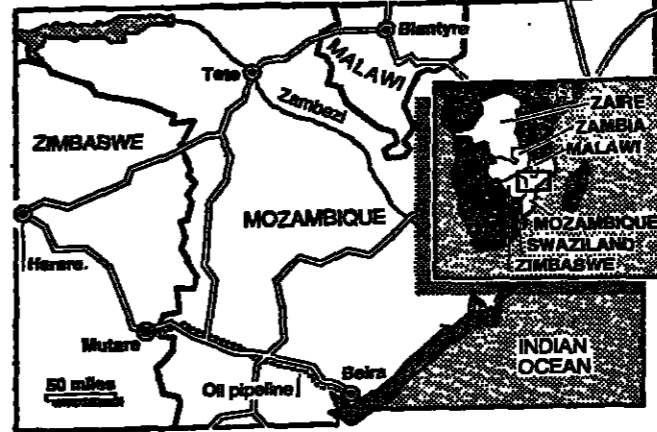
Elsewhere the incident would have made world headlines. As it is, although 18 of the Russians remain captives of the Mozambican Resistance Movement (MNR) the Zambezia raid has become just another fading chapter in the murky war which is devastating Mozambique.

The conflict has little to do with territory or even ideology. MNR guerrillas, numbering between 8,000 and 10,000, are active in all but one of the 10 provinces but have no territorial stronghold. They inflict brutal suffering on Frelimo supporters but espouse no political credo.

"The voice of free Africa", the MNR propaganda radio station broadcasting from South Africa, serves up an unspiced litany of anti-Frelimo invective.

What the resistance movement is good at is disruption. Railways, road traffic, storage depots and the oil pipeline to Zimbabwe have been struck repeatedly to the dismay not only of Frelimo but governments in neighbouring states. Mozambique's ports are vital to Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia and Swaziland - all of which are members of the Southern African Development Conference - and Zaire, which is not.

Such circumstantial evidence that the MNR is being manipu-



lated as a tool of regional destabilization by South Africa is substantiated by more 'solid intelligence, such as the assassination of Orlando Cristina, a key figure in the movement, in Pretoria earlier this year. The killing is generally believed to have been the result of an internal feud.

The only other figures in the MNR whose names are generally known are Alfonso Dhlakama, the military commander, said by the Mozambicans to have been a Frelimo soldier until he was discharged for theft

MOZAMBIQUE Part 2

in 1976; and Senhor Evo Fernandes, the MNR spokesman in Lisbon.

A primary target has been the Lombo-controlled pipeline from Beira port to Zimbabwe, closed for 15 years after the imposition of sanctions on Rhodesia in 1965. After months of rehabilitation work, it was sabotaged only days before its scheduled reopening in October 1981, and remained closed until June last year. Since then it has been sabotaged at least four times.

Zimbabwe's desperation to have the pipeline functioning, thus avoiding dependence on oil imports through South Africa, prompted the Government to send 2,000 troops to help Frelimo forces guard the installation last December. Almost immediately petrol storage tanks in Beira were sabotaged, precipitating a fuel crisis in Zimbabwe.

Another favoured target, and one which has had far greater impact on the majority of Mozambicans, is the state shops in rural areas, about half of which have been destroyed. Mr Manuel Aranda da Silva, Minister of Internal Trade, says priority is being given to reestablishing the shops with

Prisoners of conscience



Soviet Union: Anatoli Marchenko

By Caroline Moorehead
Mr Anatoli Marchenko, the author of a celebrated book on Soviet labour camps, is serving his sixth sentence, for "anti-Soviet agitation", in Camp No 35 at Perm. If he serves his full term it will be March 1991, before he is free. He is married and has a son, aged 10.

Mr Marchenko, aged 46, was born in Barabinsk, Siberia, the son of an assistant machinist on the railways. He was 19 and working in Karaganda, when he was first arrested and convicted after a riot. His experiences in the camps were to provide him with material for his later political writings.

Not long after his release, he tried to leave the Soviet Union without an exit permit. He was sentenced to six years' hard labour for "treason against the fatherland". Now he began a pattern of political writings, open letters and articles would be circulated in samizdat. Most were indictments of the living conditions of workers, of the camps and prisons and of widespread abuse of human rights. The writings would be followed by arrest, a prison sentence, or banishment. Mr Marchenko's present sentence, 10 years' reeducation through hard labour, followed by five years' loss of civil rights, is the most severe he has received.

His health has been poor since the 1960s, when he became deaf while in "special regime" in Vladimir prison, after an ear infection remained untreated. He is now believed to be suffering from chronic gastritis, arthritis and failing sight, all aggravated by appalling diet, harsh prison conditions and several hunger strikes.

Leading article, page 15



Mr Marchenko: Wrote about labour camps.

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The facts on the economy present only part of the picture. Many aspects of South African life have changed - and are changing at an ever-increasing rate. The future is exciting because we have the people, the dedication and a buoyant economy to enable us to keep on providing opportunities and improving the quality of life of all our people.

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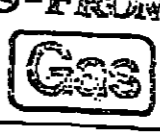
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Lusinchi triumphs in Venezuela despite lacklustre campaign

From Colin Harding
Caracas

The opposition Venezuelan Democratic Action (AD) party has won an unexpectedly comfortable victory over the ruling Christian Democrats.

With official results from Sunday's presidential election coming out very slowly, unofficial projections by the television companies and AD itself gave Dr Jaime Lusinchi, the opposition candidate, more than 50 per cent of the vote, compared with some 35 per cent for Rafael Caldera of the ruling Christian Democrats.

Dr Lusinchi claimed victory in all 22 states and the federal district of Caracas and his party also seemed assured of a large majority in both Houses of Congress.

Voting was peaceful and well-organized, and both Señor Caldera and President Luis Herrera Campins publicly conceded defeat within hours of the polling stations closing.

Dr Lusinchi has been the front runner throughout the eight-month campaign. Although Señor Caldera was the more impressive candidate and appeared to make up ground in the final weeks, the margin of Dr Lusinchi's victory suggests that the large number of floating voters overwhelmingly rejected Señor Caldera because of his association with the unpopular Government.

Dr Lusinchi will head the fourth Democratic Action Government since the present electoral system was established in 1958. He did not perform particularly impressively in the campaign and he is a poor public speaker. He compared unfavourably with the smooth, elder statesman-like figure of



Caracas check: Two voters being searched by Venezuelan soldiers.

Señor Caldera, who was President between 1969 and 1974. Dr Lusinchi's advisers told him to stay out of the limelight as much as possible, which he did until the final weeks of polling.

The President-elect's great strength has been his ability as party general secretary to unite the disparate factions in AD since its defeat in 1978. A 59-year-old paediatrician, he was one of the party's founders in 1941.

He served for more than 20 years as deputy for his native state of Anzoátegui, eastern Venezuela, and was elected for six years during the military dictatorship of General Marcos

Pérez Jiménez, which was overthrown in 1958. He later became his party's Congressional leader, and narrowly failed to secure the presidential nomination in 1978.

A chubby, genial figure, with a reputation for enjoying a good time, Dr Lusinchi will need all his skill and experience as a party manager to exert his authority within AD over the powerful figure of former President Carlos Andrés Pérez, whose protégé he once was.

Señor Pérez, a prominent figure in Socialist International, was President during the oil boom years of 1973-78, and is believed to have his sights set

on the 1988 nomination. But the new President's immediate problem - even before he takes office in February - will be the economy. Unemployment, already affecting almost 20 per cent of the workforce, is expected to rise, and the probable removal of price controls could unleash serious inflation.

Dr Lusinchi has promised a "social pact", with jobs and pay increases for the unions and economic reactivation for employers. Venezuela is still a rich country, but the new Government will be hard pressed to balance the competing demands made upon it.

Rumasa leak inquiry ordered

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Spain's Constitutional Court president yesterday promised an investigation into the leaking of the verdict in the Rumasa affair.

The verdict is believed to uphold the Government's expropriation last February of the assets of Spain's biggest empire which has interests in banking, hotels, sherry and farming.

El País, the Madrid daily, reported on Sunday that the court's 12 judges were tied and that the president's casting vote was needed to produce the verdict upholding the Government's use of a decree law for the expropriation.

Professor Manuel García Pelayo, evidently struggling as the court's president to maintain its reputation, also denied yesterday that he had an interview last month with Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister.

He had not discussed the Socialist Govt's expropriation as the court began preparing its verdict, which is expected to be made public officially later this week.

Newspaper speculation here yesterday that the leak had come from one of the judges, since no officials of the court were present when the votes were taken.

The Constitutional Court, the ultimate guarantee in law of Spain's new democracy, only set up three and a half years ago, has suffered both from the public naming of the voting positions of its members, and from the suspicion of having been the subject of political pressure.

Few want them as cash runs out Boat people become bottleneck

From David Watts, Singapore

For the first time since the early days of the Vietnam exodus, more refugees are arriving in South-East Asia than are being resettled.

This is the most serious of a number of signs that the Vietnamese refugee problem is becoming critical again. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is so concerned about the situation that an appeal to governments is now going out for more help with resettlement and funding as the UN's orderly departure programme for Vietnamese runs out of money.

If departures had been maintained at last year's levels, the problem of refugees would now be well on the way to solution, given the overall lower level of arrivals. But there are now roughly 600 more refugees a month arriving in "countries of first asylum" than there are leaving, according to Dr Shashi Tharoor, who runs the UN programme in Singapore.

As a result there are now more boat people in South-East Asian refugee camps than there were two years ago. There is now a 6,000-1 strong hard core of Vietnamese rejected by all countries for resettlement.

"Criteria have to be relaxed if there is to be any progress at all in tackling these alarming trends", Dr Tharoor said.

The UN commission's principal means of trying to prevent the haphazard escape of Vietnamese by boat has been the orderly departure programme, under which selected people are allowed to leave with Hanoi's agreement. About 41,000 people have left under the programme since 1980, but that could end next February if fresh funds are not made available.

If the programme is to continue next year it needs to make up the present short-fall of \$2.5m (£1.6m), the bulk of an annual budget of \$3.9m (£2.5m).

The value of the programme can be gauged from the appalling suffering that the boat people endure and the mounting evidence that boats in trouble are now likely to be bypassed by merchant ships. Since 1980, 2,300 women have been raped while making the dangerous passage across the South China Sea and 1,400 people are known to have been murdered by pirates.

Some shipping lines are plainly avoiding sea routes where they may encounter refugee boats. The Situation has become so serious that the international Maritime Organization in London has appealed to sailors across the world to help refugee boats in distress.

The statistics tell their own story: in 1981, 14,600 refugees were rescued by 213 ships flying the flags of 33 nations. This year the ships of only 14 nations have rescued refugees, while the number of vessels putting into Singapore with refugees has dropped by a third over the last two years.

Recently arrived Vietnamese boats reveal the full horror of being bypassed at sea. One boat which landed recently in Brunei had 51 on board when it left Vietnam on September 10. Thirty-three died in 55 days at sea, during which they were ignored by numerous ships. Another died soon after landing and the rest are all in critical condition in hospital.

In a second boat that landed in Sarawak, 17 died at sea, two died soon after landing, and seven are critically ill in hospital.

Ruling today in Burma bomb trial

Rangoon (AP) - Two North Korean Army officers should face the death penalty for murdering 21 people, including several senior South Korean officials, the prosecution at the Rangoon terrorist bombing trial urged yesterday.

The Constitutional Court, the ultimate guarantee in law of South Korea's new democracy, only set up three and a half years ago, has suffered both from the public naming of the voting positions of its members, and from the suspicion of having been the subject of political pressure.

The crime on October 9 at Rangoon's Martyr's Mausoleum. The dead included four South Korean Cabinet ministers and several other visiting senior officials.

The Rangoon Division People's Court heard arguments from prosecution and defence counsels whether to charge the accused for murder, attempted murder and illegal possession of arms. The court postponed its decision until today.

Defence lawyer for Captain Kang Min Chul and Major Zin Mo argued that there were no eyewitnesses, to their alleged crime.

The prosecution noted that Captain Kang had confessed that he, Major Zin, and a third officer, who was killed by the bombing, had been ordered to Burma to kill the South Korean President.

Brazil begins process of decentralization

From Patrick Knight, Brasilia

The Brazilian Congress reached another landmark when, in the teeth of government hostility, it passed a bill transferring funds from the central Government to state and local administrations.

This was the first reversal of a process of centralization which has lasted for the past twenty years and was also Congress's first initiative in exerting its limited powers over spending. No senators or deputies voted against the Bill last week in an unusual show of unanimity against the now-faltering executive, which threatened reprisals if the measure were passed, but then climbed down.

Faced with a perceptible decline in authority of the Government of President João Figueiredo, who has apparently not completely recovered from a heart operation in the US in July, the Government is being forced to consider holding direct elections for the presidency.

It had been anticipated that General Figueiredo's successor would be nominated by the electoral college, in which the governing Social Democrat Party (PDS) still has a majority. However, the PDS, previously hardly more than a compliant mechanism used by the military and the technocrats to rule, is now rebellious and divided after reverses in last November's elections. The President can no longer rely on it to nominate his candidate.

Left to its own devices, the college would probably choose the former Governor of São Paulo state, Deputy Paulo Maluf, who has gained enormous support from Deputies from all over the country. He got this basically by suggesting that he would substitute his supporters for the hundreds of retired military men who occupy high positions in the dozens of state corporations dominating Brazil's economy.

President Figueiredo's faction, and most, but by no means all the military hierarchy, are consequently extremely hostile to Senator Maluf, who would, however, have no chance of winning a direct election.

If the PDS is splitting into what might be termed a loyalist and a Maluf line, with the loyalist line shrinking as deputies seek to distance themselves from an increasingly unpopular administration, the main opposition party, the PMDB, is hardly more united.

It is an amalgam of odd bedfellows, ranging from supporters of various Communist and Trotskyist parties to extreme right-wing politicians, who are in this party rather than the PDS owing to special local circumstances.

Now that Congress is gaining ground from the executive, the artificial unity of PMDB is also proving difficult to sustain.

The party seems likely to split into a left and a centre faction, the centre forming a grouping which might also attract PDS rebels. Such a development could permit a candidate from this new party to win a direct election. Among potential leaders is the Governor of Minas Gerais state, Senator Tancredino Nerys, a founder of the short-lived Popular Party.

Another possibility is having an interim President for perhaps two years, bridging the gap between General Figueiredo and a directly-elected President. Men such as Senator Helio Beltrão, the former Social Security Minister, who recently resigned in protest over proposed cuts in services and Vice-President Aureliano Chaves, are suggested candidates, as events gather pace in Brasilia.

Bangladesh fights annual cholera epidemic

From Michael Hamlyn, Dhaka

Bangladesh is in the middle of its annual cholera epidemic, and the month that stretches from the visit of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to today's Islamic conference of foreign ministers finds the epidemic at its peak.

Mofid Begum, a married woman no more than 17 years old, began to feel bad at eight o'clock one morning last weekend. By 10 o'clock she had lost so much fluid that she had become dehydrated and collapsed. It is the dehydration associated with cholera that kills.

By 11 o'clock her family had brought her to the cholera hospital in Dhaka. She was given oral rehydration solution to drink, but her fluid loss was so high that she was given an intravenous drip as well. By two o'clock she had received 15 pints of solution intravenously and had drunk two pints herself.

Her eyes were still dark ringed and sunken from the dehydration, but she was recovering. She had taken in a third of her own body weight in fluid since her arrival but she was not going to die.

"No one needs die of cholera," said Dr William Greenough, a soft-spoken New Englander who is director of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research (ICDDR) which operates the cholera hospital here.

Dr Greenough and his institution have been responsible for developing the techniques that saved the life of Mofid Begum and hundreds of thousands like her. The ICDDR proved by its early studies that the cholera vaccine was virtually useless - indeed that it did more harm than good.

He developed the formula for the oral rehydration solution, a combination of salt, sugar, sodium bicarbonate and potassium chloride.

Because of the success of the oral rehydration therapy other forms of treatment are more readily accepted in the clusters of homes on the swollen river banks and the health workers are able to conduct widespread immunization programmes against tetanus and diphtheria and best of all to gain acceptance for birth control systems.

In the villages covered by the ICDDR centre at Matlab bazaar infant mortality has dropped from 146 per thousand to 100 per thousand in four years. The overall death rate has dropped from 16 per thousand, to 11 per thousand.

At the same time the birth rate has dropped by 30 per cent. And the doubling time for the population has lengthened from 27 years to 52 years.



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Little black dressing

When the celebration of Yves Saint Laurent's designs opens at the Metropolitan Museum in New York next week, the key exhibit will be his plain black tuxedo suit. It stands out among the galaxy of glamour and style that takes us from the early days at Dior, through the 1960s geometrics, the explosion of colour and richness in the Ballet Russe collection to the Parisian refinement of today.

Diana Vreeland, the special consultant to the Costume Institute, understands better than anyone the purity of Saint Laurent's style. From among the wide selection of garments offered by New York's socialites (and a hundred by one enthusiast alone), Mrs Vreeland has distilled the essential Saint Laurent for the first exhibition ever devoted to a living designer by the Metropolitan Museum's costume department. His message comes across in myriad styles, but the little black dressing says it all: simplicity of line, perfection of cut and a dash of wit.

Yves Saint Laurent re-invented the art of black magic. He also espoused the tuxedo suit, with trousers or skirt, or cut in one piece as a dress. Le smoking was first shown by YSL in 1966. This marriage of masculine tailoring to the female body has been his contribution to twentieth century fashion, and a reflection of social change and a modern woman's needs.

The fact that so many garments in the Metropolitan's exhibition could be worn today, underlines the credo of Lady Rendlesham, managing director of the Rive Gauche shops in London and an absolute disciple of Saint Laurent's classic taste.

His dress of this season is a simple column of black velvet, wickedly short, studded at the side with rhinestone buttons and the most seductive example of the LBD.

Although London is currently in the thrall of black velvet and lace, of slithers of black jersey and clouds of black net, the French designers are the artists with black. The Chanel suit in lustrous velvet, with a Puritan white bow at the neck to belie the curves, is another way of making magic out of an outfit that is a familiar party-garment.

The idea of dressing up for evening has taken hold again, with patsie and pearls, rhinestones and the real thing all twinkling across the midnight black. Harrods opened their grand new Evening and After Six department three weeks ago, devoted to glamorous evening wear and well-timed for the party season. Included in the new area are British designers like Roland Klein and Anne Tyrrell for John Marks, as well as separates from all sources to help you put a new look together.

The style of the season is the LBD itself, the plainer the better, perhaps with a deep V-back and definitely shorter rather than long, although Calvin Klein and Krizia both do wonderful things with black velvet at Browns.

Fluffy black angora makes an elegant sweater or evening jumper to go with a black velvet sheath skirt, and street-wise girls put the look together with a net petticoat and a jumper for fun and almost for free.

I believe that you get what you pay for, and the most ravishing dresses are in the uppermost price levels. Emanuel Ungaro has some exquisite dresses in his Bond Street shop that are almost couture quality.

But the LBD comes at all price levels right through the market place, including a puff ball of lace on a bustier dress at Miss Selfridge and a sheath of black velvet, with V fore and all at Wallis, Marks and Spencer too have put a strapless black cocktail dress into selected stores which proves how the mood for dressing up has reached a general audience.

Less is more when it comes to Little Black Dressing, with the cut of a fine dress speaking louder than sequins and trappings. But accessories do glitter with rhinestones studded in tights, hair ornaments and bold jewelry.

Our own dress collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum includes a selection of LBDs from Balmain to Balenciaga to Saint Laurent himself. The enviable skill of the master designer is to make fashion museum pieces that women still want to wear.



Far left: Yves Saint Laurent's Little Black Dress in velvet, cut asymmetrically with rhinestone buttons £320, glitter earrings and bracelets, plain black suede shoes £87, all from Saint Laurent Rive Gauche, 113 New Bond Street, W1 and 35/37, St. James's Place, SW1. Rhinestone studded sheer black tights £15 from Grable, 27 Conduit Street, W1. Left: Chanel's wicked whisper of black lace. Decorative tunic blouse £250 satin tie, milk white pearls and diamonds and pearl earrings all from Chanel, 25 Old Bond Street, W1. Make-up by Chanel Beauté using the Lumière collection: Teint Naturel "Porcelaine", finely dusted with "Beige Lumière" for a translucent finish. Cheekbones subtly shaded with rose, eyes bright with pink and violet Ombre Cristalline, "Rouge Magique" lips with a touch of "Galaxie".



Above: White satin pussy-bow and ushettee cuffs on a black velvet suit with rhinestone buttons and buckled belt. From Chanel, 25 Old Bond Street, W1. Left: The tuxedo dress in velvet with satin lapels £207 by Janice Wainwright from a range in Harrods' Designer Eveningwear room, Selfridges, Henrietta Bath, Knightsbridge of Leicester. Rhinestone studded belt £35 by Otto Glanz from Harvey Nichols. Glitter chains and earrings from Chanel, Old Bond Street, W1. Hair by SHAIUN at Daniel Galvin Visagiste MARY GREENWELL for Chanel Photographs by JOHN SWANNELL

FASHION FLASH

● The twelve-foot high "cosmic egg" on the forecourt of the Commonwealth Institute is just a taste of an extraordinary exhibition inside.

"Goddesses" is a celebration in sculpture of the spirit of India by Andrew Logan, inspired by a recent trip to the country and his work with close friend Zandra Rhodes. Visual and sensory delights include holograms, incense and an Indian tea stall. Logan's articulated sculpture of Zandra moving like an Indian dancer incorporates the shattered mirrors and glitter he is well-known for in his jewelry.

"Goddesses" is in the Art Gallery, Commonwealth Institute, W8 until December 31.


● An important exhibition which brings together the work of selected students from art and design colleges around the country is being staged at the Barbican Centre until January 15. Three years in the making.

"Young Blood" has a good proportion of fashion design elements in the 2,000 exhibits.

In the high fashion section, "Personal Images", clothes are shown as integral parts of their environment. A particularly interesting choice is a project by first year students at Preston Polytechnic on the theme of aggressive fashions.

Innovations in textile construction and application have an important place in industry and some impressive work by students of the Constructed Textiles course at Middlesex Polytechnic is on display.

Admission: £3 adults, children over 12 £2. Closed Mondays. Christine Fainell



Fortnum's

AN OCCASIONAL COMMENTARY ON CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Look, Vanessa, there's Henry. I've been dropping hints about that beautiful dressing gown all the week. "I saw this absolutely gorgeous dressing gown in Fortnum's", I said. "It's pure wool in the most heavenly colour, from the Jean Muir At Home Collection, and it's just £155".

Well, I suppose it was a bit obvious, but I do find men need to be pointed in the right direction at Christmas, don't you? And what better direction could you point a man than the Lingerie Department at Fortnum's.

Or the Perfume Department, of course. Now there's a treasure trove of luxury in which men can find gifts to suit every woman - fragrant Pot-Pourri Sachets, ambrosial soaps, sweet scented atomisers, and bottles of luxurious French perfume.

For those still undecided there's just time to send for Fortnum's Christmas Catalogue £1 post free. Now open until 6pm weekdays (5.30pm Saturdays).

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Cocktail dresses are short and shapely for the winter season. Figure-flattering straight slim skirts have now replaced the trouser for dinner dressing with the evening jacket often cropped and fitted.

Black back-buttoning polyester satin dress £69, also fuscia by Suky at Harrods' Evening and After Six department.



Black angora cardigan applied with satin bow sequins £50, also grey, also pink. Black satin skirt with side detail £35.50, also grey.

Both by Mondri from Harrods' Selfridges; Dickins & Jones; Fenwick, New Bond Street, W1; Brent Cross NW4 and Newcastle.

Angela Beer, Woodford Bramhall, Club 77 Shrewsbury.




Black jacket £73.50 by Phase 8 Design, Fulham Road, SW10; New King's Road, SW6; Bellevue Road, Wandsworth, SW17; Notting Hill Gate, W8 and Harvey Nichols. Black lace camisole £14.95 from Phase 8 shops, Eve, Torquay; Syboe Colchester. Black velvet skirt with bow and lace insert £46 from Phase 8, Evo, Torquay; Butterfly, Manchester.



Black velvet lined slip dress with side-buttons £114 by Georges Rech from Simpson, Piccadilly, W1; Young Ideas, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Wardrobe in Chiltern Street and Grosvenor Street W1 have a range of Georges Rech eveningwear, including a long black chiton skirt and shimmering satin 2-piece.

Illustrations by JOYCE MACDONALD

PETA MARIE



Evening dress with long sleeves and full skirt. Price £120.00. Available in all branches.

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Luxurious Nightwear in polyester. Clogs de Chine with the Seasons. Feet of Silk.



A gift at £20

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هكذا من الأصل

THE ARTS

Concerts

LPO/Rostropovich Festival Hall

It is unfortunate that last night's performance of Britten's War Requiem should have come so soon after the powerful new recording conducted by Simon Rattle...

Strong, too, were the big orchestral climaxes, and particularly the great swirl of sound that Mr Rostropovich achieved just before the last Owen scene...

Paul Griffiths

Bumbry, Verrett Covent Garden

When Shirley Verrett turned to Grace Bumbry on the stage of the Royal Opera House last night and, as La Gioconda, taunted Laura with "You would fly then, my happy rival?"...

generated between them. No matter, either, that the Royal Opera Orchestra, conducted by Michael Langelli Veltri, making his British debut...

Hilary Finch

Galleries

Love among the majestic ruins

John Piper The Tate Gallery; Marlborough Fine Arts

Old Master Paintings Chaucer Fine Arts Inc.

Polite Society: Arthur Devis 1712-1787 National Portrait Gallery

The Architect's Handmaid: Paint colour in the 18th century interior RIBA Heinz Gallery



Piper's Italian and Gothic, Hafod 1939 (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff)

The overriding impression conveyed by the comprehensive exhibition of John Piper's work, staged at the Tate Gallery (until January 22) in honour of the artist's 80th birthday...

One of the attractions of Marcello Violante's gallery at 45 Pimlico Road, Chaucer Fine Arts Inc., is its unpretentious, domestic scale and layout...

What is undeniable is that Devis generally portrayed his provincial, middle-class sitters as they saw themselves, rather than as they were...

Television Talking tedium

Malvinas: A Story of Betrayals (Channel 4) opened with film of the Argentinian soldiers on the Falkland Islands...

This was the first extended presentation on British television of the Argentinian "case" (complete with ethnic music in the background) and as such it ought to have been at least intermittently interesting...

Jeffery Daniels

Peter Ackroyd

Gary Dartnall is in the front row of those watching the renaissance of the British film industry. And he is ready to join in the success.

Mining gold from the silver screen

In a vast, anonymous office Gary Dartnall is fighting to join the ever-expanding ranks of the saviours of the British film industry...

little world of the British movie industry he is potentially one of the biggest investors. He has moved rapidly. He started work in May and has now merged the film production, cinema and video companies...



Gary Dartnall: "We've got to make films we believe in here"

should make British films. There's a wealth of talent in England which has been exploited by the American companies for years. Verity Lambert's initial list ran to Illegal Aliens, a comedy by Mel Smith and Griff Rhys-Jones...

Royal Shakespeare Company's MUSICAL OF THE YEAR! Poppy 'AN UNMISSABLE TREAT' 'A BRILLIANT SPECTACLE' ADELPHI THEATRE

Royal Opera House Massenet's Esclarmonde Joan Sutherland Cast includes Joan Sutherland with Ernesto Veronelli, Gwynne Howell, Diana Mountague, Ryland Davies, Geoffrey Moses and Jonathan Summers. Conductor Richard Bonynge

Please send a little Christmas cheer Barnardo's needs to find the money to help over 9,000 needy children next year. Why not cut out and send the tag below to a friend for his or her Christmas tree. HOORAY! Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barking, Essex IG6 1QC

THE TIMES DIARY

Frankly speaking

Sir Frank Cooper, until his retirement last year Permanent Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Defence and scourge of the Treasury...

Downing thumbs

The 1982 undergraduate Christmas dinner at Downing College, Cambridge, became a little too lively for the college's governing body...

Iran Air has so many passengers during the Haj pilgrimage that it has to borrow pilots from other airlines.

Shot to ribbons

The Duke of Edinburgh has a reputation for using fairly robust language to state his case. Even so, his speech to the Indian ex-Services League during his recent visit to India is surely exaggerated.

Sans Santa

Thought for the Day, a programme which transmits an early-morning moral message on Irish radio, recently provoked some listener reaction by casting doubt on the existence of Santa Claus.

Oh, Kaye!

A circular has gone out asking concert promoters to note that Michael Kaye is no longer general administrator of the South Bank concert halls and that any mention of him should be removed from all publicity material.



Barry Fantoni

Slabbed off

St George's Chapel, Windsor, is raising £1,000 by selling off its eighteenth century stone floor to Americans at £15 a slab.

Who was Who

After my report on Friday that Garry Allighan, the former Labour MP for Gravesend, still enjoys an entry in Who's Who, I have discovered from his son-in-law, Michael Percival, that Mr Allighan died five years ago in Johannesburg.

This can't really wait for Saturday's Sporting Diary in the annual soccer match between the Press Gallery and MPs.

Bombshell-proof?

The Moroccan News Agency is perplexing military experts. It reports from Bangkok that the Soviet Union has delivered important military hardware to Vietnam, for its winter offensive against Cambodia - notably 'des blindés'.

Partners - not just allies

by Richard Holme

How fares the partnership between Liberals and Social Democrats which came so near breakthrough, and yet so far from power, six months ago?

Despite some impressive parliamentary performances, particularly from the new Alliance MPs, and mildly encouraging local election results, the sad truth is that the Alliance team has yet to leave base camp for the final assault on the bastion of the two-party system.

Is it just an electoral technique, a presentational gimmick, or is it the organizing centre of the new politics? Is it temporary or permanent? If it is already something deeper and stronger than a coalition...

Any successful organization needs to know its purpose and direction and communicate them to its members. So it is with the Alliance and its component parties.

they will have constructed a zero-sum game. The goodwill and enthusiasm at the heart of voluntary political activity, and particularly of the Alliance, will simply leak away...

An integrationist strategy, in which the parties were set on convergent courses, would have great advantages. As the prospect of shared success grew, the fear of being swallowed up would become an irrelevance...

It has been said that the job of politicians is to find out what is going on and put a name to it. What is going on in the Alliance is a coming together of millions of people with the common goal of progressive policies and government reform.

Richard Holme is a former president of the Liberal Party.

Sheltering behind a wall of silence

Duncan Campbell

Ever since the invention of the hydrogen bomb, civil defence in Britain has been intimately linked to defence policy and the nuclear deterrent - a link heavily stressed by the present Government when it began planning for new statutory civil defence duties to be imposed on local authorities.

As a "nuclear free zone" authority, the GLC continues to believe that the only safe defence against war is determinedly to campaign for the preservation of peace. The GLC is required to shield Londoners from the grotesque horror of future war, will carry out its legal responsibilities.

No. If there is a duty, it belongs also to central government departments, which are in a better position to provide the critical information on the risks and effects of war around which plans may be formulated.

Last summer legal advisers warned the GLC that before the council could make any civil defence plans it was essential to obtain clear and detailed planning assumptions - which should include such matters as the likely type of war, the scope of possible destruction, and the warning time the council might get.

Following this advice, on October 30, 1982, the council wrote seeking the necessary information from the Home Office.

The GLC's letter asked for assistance on 27 detailed aspects of war planning. It listed 30 possible likely targets of conventional or nuclear attack which would affect Londoners, and asked if any central government department had yet prepared its civil defence plans for the capital.

The author is the GLC Public Services and Fire Brigade Committee's consultant on civil defence.

Olive branch or playing for time?

A foreign diplomat in Managua was asked the other day what new gesture Nicaragua's ruling Sandinistas could make to defuse the sharp hostility of the Reagan administration to their Marxist regime.

Yet recent events in Washington and Managua, culminating in Nicaragua's announcement last Sunday of national elections in 1985, do raise legitimate questions about what the Americans really wish to achieve in their dealings with the first victorious liberation movement in Latin America since Fidel Castro came to power.

Reagan's present policy only makes sense if you assume that the US believes it has forced the Sandinistas to get them belly-down on the floor.

The president's gambast diplomacy has undoubtedly achieved results in Nicaragua. The US invasion of Grenada put the fear of God into the Sandinistas. I was in Managua at the time: the first thing every government official asked was, will the Marines be landing here next?

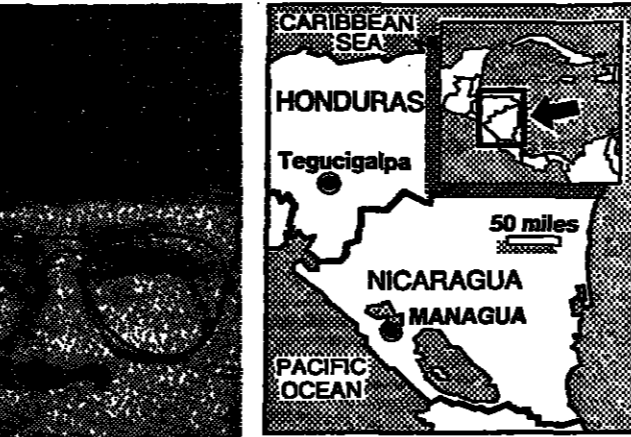
With the fragile economy reeling under the cost of fighting the US-backed "contras" - counter-revolutionaries - massing near the Honduran frontier, and Nicaragua's Cuban allies making it clear they would not intervene in the event of an American invasion, the leadership was badly off balance.

The first clear indication of Nicaragua's desire to appease Washington is the departure over the past week or so of a significant number of Cubans working with the government. The Sandinistas are acutely aware that Reagan's principal justification for the Grenada invasion - the "Cubanization" of the island - could be applied far more easily to their country.

The Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris, forcing ground for the French elite, has become the scene of political and academic conflict. At issue is the entry last month of ten students without taking the usual rigorous entrance examinations.

In September 1981 President Mitterrand introduced a plan to "democratize" the institution; his project was the subject of long and heated debates in Parliament and culminated in a law of January 19, 1983 instituting a third competition alongside the existing two (external and internal) for entry.

In the 1980s the Ministry of Defence says, should have read blinds (armoured cars). PHS



The US government's verbal assault on the Sandinistas has made effective use of their failure to hold free elections promised "soon" after the overthrow of the detested regime of Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

There are legitimate doubts about how free opposition parties will fight the campaign, but any election represents a step towards the "democratization" which Mr Reagan has said repeatedly is the most cherished US objective in Nicaragua.

Much has also been made in Washington of the Sandinistas' repeated clashes with Nicaragua's only real opposition newspaper, La Prensa, and with the bishops of the Catholic Church. La Prensa has certainly been the main target of the press censorship ushered in by the declaration of a state of emergency in Nicaragua last year.

At the same time, it appears that the Nicaraguans would welcome the speedy departure of Salvadoran guerrilla representatives who have been based in and around Managua for several years. The US has always insisted that the war in El Salvador is directed from command centres in these sanctuaries, which are also said to coordinate a vast flow of weapons to the insurgents.

American military sources in the region have long had their doubts about this, but the presence of guerrilla leaders in Nicaragua clearly provides a potential target for US reprisals. A Salvadoran spokesman indicated recently that the guerrillas' political wing would be moving out, probably to Mexico City.

A sharp attack of mal de meritocracy

80, while the number earmarked for the internal competition - open to established civil servants up to the age of 36 - has been increased from 64 to 72. Hitherto, attempts at democratizing the ENA have taken the form of increasing the number of places allocated to the internal competition at the expense of the external.

Pierre Laborey, the official in the civil service department responsible for implementing the new reform, has stated: "The ENA must be opened up. Students at present come from privileged backgrounds, and must have attended the same school (ie the Paris Institut d'Etudes Politiques) before entering. Students from more modest backgrounds, who do not possess this book-learning but who have a knowledge of real life, should be admitted."

The news that 40 of the 47 candidates had strong socialist or communist party affiliations provoked an immediate reaction: the ENA graduates' association held an extraordinary general meeting on October 6 and by an overwhelming

churchmen for their "political" intervention in such sensitive matters as the right of conscientious objectors to refuse military service.

Senior Sandinistas made a point of attending a reception for two Venezuelan bishops in Managua last week, at which the Nicaraguan prelates were among the guests of honour.

Is it all mere window-dressing, a cynical manoeuvre for time by the Sandinistas during a period of great vulnerability? The Reagan administration still seems to think so. The State Department declared last week "We have no real evidence that the Sandinistas have changed their basic philosophy towards human rights and the expression of views by internal opponents."

Back in August, announcing the establishment of his naval task force off Nicaragua, Mr Reagan let it be known that he thought it would be "extremely difficult" ever to come to terms with the present Sandinista government.

To achieve that, it would be necessary to believe that most Nicaraguans yearn to be free of their admittedly inefficient and authoritarian masters. This is a very dangerous illusion, as dangerous as the administration's enthusiastic support for the most reactionary of the "contra" groups, commanded by former associates of Somoza, who make no bones about their dreams of bloody revenge if they ever shoot their way back to power.

Philip Jacobson

The effect of this is to obscure the real similarity between those purported opposites, Fascism and communism, both involve the attempt to create a mass popular movement, and a state bound together under the rule of a single party, in which there will be total cohesion about a common goal.

Both demand the elimination of opposition, by whatever means, and the replacement of ordered dispute between parties by clandestine "discussion" within the ruling elite. Both involve taking control ("in the name of the people") of the means of communication and education, and both involve subjecting the entire economy to a central command. Both movements regard law as defensible, and constitutional constraints as largely irrelevant.

Fully realized, fascism and communism are forms of military government, involving the permanent mobilization of the entire populace, which can no longer perform even the most peaceful-seeming actions - eating, walking, praying or meeting - outside the spirit of war. There is a difference, however. Whereas fascist governments have come to power with extensive popular support, and occasionally renounced power in favour of constitutional government, communist governments have almost always gained power by a coup d'état, and have never peacefully relinquished it.

Such facts destroy the two equations which are so fundamental to current journalism: "fascist = far right"; "communist = far left". Far more pernicious than these equations, however, has been the reasoning of those who hold that "far right" is to be identified in terms of specific "fascist" attitudes - in particular, attitudes towards race and national identity. This disease of the intellect, which puts the "free association of ideas" in place of argument, leads to such absurd conclusions as that the National Front is "on the extreme right". It also leads to the idea that politicians who advocate immigration controls, repatriation, or whatever are to the "right" of those who do not. Since this reasoning is almost invariably conducted by those for whom it is morally impossible to be on the right, it has the effect of closing the mind to all rational discussion of one of our most important political problems.

Let us change the subject. There is a distinction which is far more important and far more pertinent to our current political situation than that between "left" and "right". This is the distinction between governments which recognize opposition and those which do not. That is the distinction that aligns, for example, Nicaragua with the Soviet Union, and Turkey with the West. For us, the major purpose of politics is to provide the framework within which it can be accommodated and where possible resolved. For them, the first purpose of politics is to root out opposition and silence it, to achieve that "unity about a common purpose" which is equally the goal of fascism and communism, and which sets each movement at variance, not only with constitutional government, but also with itself.

الحزب من الاصل

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Sterling bows to the almighty dollar

It would be true to say that the pound yesterday fell to its lowest level yet against the dollar when it broke through \$1.45 for the first time. It would be more meaningful to say that the dollar reached a record against the pound, for there was no noticeable weakness of sterling against other currencies.

Modest rise in wholesale prices lifts inflation hope

The prices charged by industry at the factory gate are still rising only modestly despite a more rapid increase in the cost of its fuel and raw materials, boosting government hopes that inflation may peak at no more than about 5.5 per cent next spring.

Table with 2 columns: RETAIL SALES AND CREDIT, MANUFACTURING PRODUCER PRICES. Includes data for 1981-1983 across various months.

peaking at about 5.5 per cent in the spring. This forecast depends on a further slowdown in the rate at which unit labour costs are rising - which means smaller pay settlements and continued strong productivity growth.

BP shakes market

BP stunned the equity market yesterday by announcing it has found no oil in the Mukluk project off the north coast of Alaska. Its shares tumbled 24p to 392p, wiping £450m from the group's market value.

P & O set to sell bank

Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company is likely to sell its wholly-owned banking subsidiary, TCB, soon. Rumours that P & O was thinking of such a move have grown since European Ferries decided to take advantage of the increasing interest shown by leading institutions in banks and stockbrokers, and put up for sale its Singer & Friedlander banking subsidiary.

Allianz in pledge to top BAT

Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance company, yesterday promised to top BAT Industries' £914m bid for Eagle Star. But it stopped short of naming its price and its statement caused confusion in the stock market.



Mr Peter Thompson (right), chairman and chief executive of the National Freight Consortium, shares the title with Mr Philip Harris, chairman of Harris Queensway, the carpet and DIY company.

Opec price 'could fall close to \$16'

Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) have been warned that disunity among their members at this week's full ministerial meeting coupled with a mild winter in the US and Western Europe could send oil prices down almost to \$16 a barrel.

US rejects Clausen's cash appeal

The Reagan Administration has turned down a 11th hour appeal from Mr A W "Tom" Clausen, President of the World Bank, for an urgently needed increase in the American commitment to subsidize aid for the poorest countries.

Moben managing director resigns

Moben Group, the kitchen, bedroom furniture and double glazing company, yesterday said that its co-founder and managing director, Mr Jim Benham, had resigned on health grounds.

US rejects Clausen's cash appeal

These are straightforward commercial and amicable terms. I'm not prepared to say what is causing Jim's health problems but it is his who has decided he should leave. He is not leaving because of any disaster within the group.

Unmanned oil platform goes ahead

BP has decided to develop the South East Forties oilfield in the North Sea using an unmanned, satellite platform connected to the existing Forties A complex. The project will cost \$40m, \$60m more than its planned seabed production facility to which the Department of Energy was opposed.

Dow continues lower

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks continued their moderately lower course in active early trading yesterday. The Dow-Jones industrial average fell more than 1 1/2 points, while the transportation average was down about five points.

Market leader Blue Circle resisting

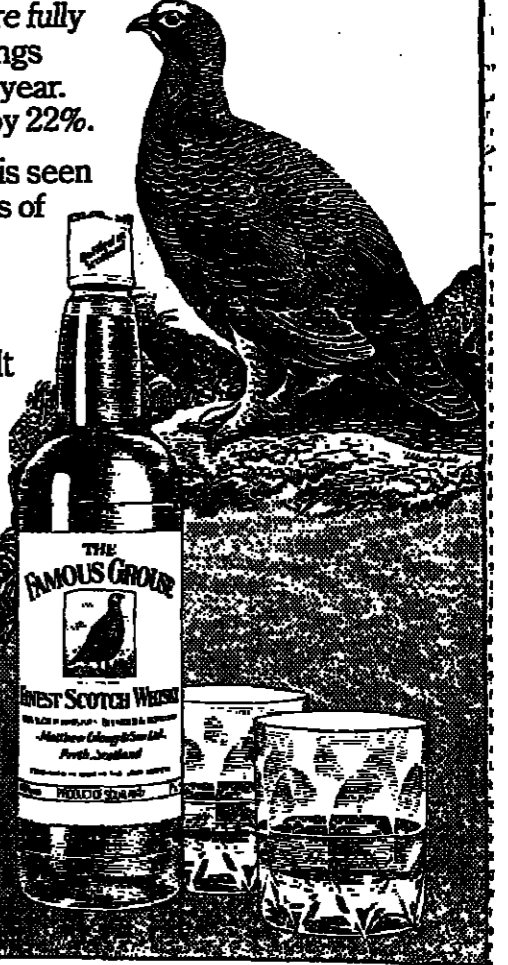
The Cement Makers' Federation is expected to increase the price of cement by about 5 per cent when its council members meet tomorrow. However, the increase is unlikely to become effective until March at the earliest, because the federation has promised users at least three months notice of a rise in prices.

Cement prices may rise 5%

A visit to London by Mr James Stewart, president of Lone Star, the largest cement maker in the US, has also helped to boost the share prices of British cement makers. Mr Stewart told an analysts meeting at Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, that prices and the size of the market in the US would move higher next year.

LONDON (fixed per ounce): am \$402.40 pm \$397.25 Close \$397-397.75 (2274.25-274.75)

Highland Distilleries Continuing success of "The Famous Grouse". The year turned out to be rather better than expected, with sales up 6.4% to £84,927,000 and profits up some 23% to £7,047,000.



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Cluff wins contract in Barbados

By David Young Energy Correspondent

Cluff Oil, the British independent oil company, has overcome competition from several US companies to win a sole seismic survey licence from the Barbados Government and the Barbados National Oil Company.

Walter Eltis investigates the dilemma that may soon be facing the Chancellor

When falling inflation creates a new monetary trap



Walter Eltis (left) and Professor Milton Friedman: a sudden fall in inflation would increase the demand for money.

Inflation fell to 5 per cent in January and it is expected to fall further until the end of next year. After that, a continuation of the policy of steadily reducing the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement should reduce inflation and inflationary expectations further to 2 or 3 per cent by 1986 or 1987.

With faster inflation and the higher nominal interest rates which generally accompany it, workers and companies can gain by minimizing their cash balances and buying consumer goods, real assets or shares as early as possible to avoid unnecessarily large bank deposits.

But when inflation is zero the demand for money might be 20 per cent higher (as a ratio of the national income) so the Government must also ensure that while it is reducing the rate of growth of the money supply from 12 per cent to 2 per cent, it is at the same time increasing the supply of money 20 per cent faster than the national income.

Alternatively the bizarre idea has been proposed that at the very instant that inflationary expectations come down, prices could fall 20 per cent. The real money supply, viz what money can buy, will then rise 20 per cent, and prices can be entirely stable after this sudden and unexpected price fall.

If there is an increase in the demand for money at today's interest rates, and these gradual adjustments to slower inflation will increase the demand for bank advances to the private sector.

Polly Peck (Holdings) plc Preliminary Results

for the financial period from 29th August 1982 to 3rd September 1983.

Table with 3 columns: Metric, 53 weeks to 3rd Sept 1983, 52 weeks to 28th August 1982. Rows include Turnover, Group Profit before Taxation, Group Profit attributable to Shareholders, Retained Profits for the period, Earnings per share.

Extract from the Chairman's Statement: "The Group has completed a very successful trading year and has maintained its rapid but firmly based growth throughout, with pre-tax profits rising by 13.5% to £247.7m. The Company's Board is therefore recommending an increased final dividend of 19p net per share, payable on 27th February 1984 to shareholders on the register at 30th January 1984, which makes a total net dividend for the year of 28p per share."

Large financial table containing various fund listings, including Authorized Units & Insurance Funds, with columns for fund names, shares, and prices.

1971-73 when the real money supply rose 36 per cent, and one where it is an inescapable element in policies to assist the recovery of the economy, as in 1931-33 when the real money supply rose 16 per cent.

The key concept here may be Prof. Knut Wicksell's natural rate of interest. According to this, if market rates of interest are below the natural rate, spontaneous profit maximizing banking expansion will produce inflation, while bank advances will expand at a rate which causes prices to fall if the market rate of interest is above the natural rate.

In today's terms this surely means that at low real interest rates, spontaneous private sector banking expansion will produce accelerating inflation, while bank advances will expand at a rate which causes prices to fall if the market rate of interest is above the natural rate.

Growing bank advances at these unnaturally low real interest rates sent inflation shooting upwards. In 1931-32, in contrast, banks lent at 5 to 6 per cent while the price level was falling at 2 1/2 per cent annually, so the real cost of bank advances was 7 1/2 to 8 1/2 per cent.

Spontaneous growth of the money supply which originated in the private sector was not inflationary at these high real interest rates.

Today the cost of bank advances is about 12 per cent, and with an inflation rate of 5 per cent, the real cost of bank advances is perhaps 7 per cent. If advances grow spontaneously at these interest rates without assistance from an unfunded budget deficit (for there was no government deficit in 1932) this will be no more inflationary than the rapid monetary growth of 1931-33.

It is therefore arguable that the Government can safely allow private sector loan demand to respond to any increase in the demand for money. Such expansion would be no more than a response by the private sector to the Government's success in bringing down inflation.

Credibility in the Government's intention to continue to reduce inflation will rest in a continuing reduction in the PSBR along the path set out in the medium term financial strategy.

Walter Eltis is a fellow of Exeter College, Oxford

خذنا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

Defence Ministry spurns Ada

The Ministry of Defence is to stop financing the development in Britain of the programming language that is due to become a standard requirement for American and Nato military systems from next year.

If the United States Department of Defence sticks to the current deadline for implementing the language, which is called Ada, British contractors could find themselves excluded from US or Nato computer contracts after 1984.

But most observers believe that Ada development has fallen so far behind schedule in the United States too that the DoD will have to relax the timetable for its introduction.

The problem is the unprecedented complexity of Ada and in particular of the Ada Programming Support Environment (APSE) — the immense collection of software engineering tools being developed to manage, coordinate and update Ada systems.

A group of British software houses, called the Ada Group (AGL), was working on an APSE under the sponsorship of the MoD, British Telecom, GEC and Plessey. (Telecom is involved because it hopes to adopt a standard communications programming language called Chilk which could share a support environment with Ada; the hybrid would be called Chapey.)

The MoD has pulled out because its officials believed that technical problems would force the development costs of

Chapey far above the \$10m originally bargained for, and Telecom followed suit.

A ministry official said that government research funds should not really be used to enable British companies to compete for commercial contracts; private industry ought to be more willing to put up funds, he suggested.

In fact it would be surprising if GEC, Plessey and the major defence software houses were not taking steps to continue developing an APSE in the absence of government financial support, since the alternative would be exclusion from a large slice of their traditional business.

The language is named after Ada Lovelace (1815-52), who is said by romantic historians, to have been the first computer programmer. Its origin was a DoD decision in 1974 to standardize on a single programming language in place of the 350 different ones used then by different contractors. This software Tower of Babel was costing the Pentagon \$3,500m a year.

No existing language could encompass all the DoD requirements (Coral 66, the real-time standard adopted by the MoD in Britain was too limited). So the Americans went through a

THE WEEK

Clive Cookson

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Japanese claim new leap in time cuts



A Japanese hardware manufacturer, NEC Corp, claims to have developed the world's first non-Neumann type ultra-high-speed computer writes Ross Davies.

The "Dream Computer", is said to be capable of computation up to 33 million times a second, between 50 and 100 times faster than state-of-the-art computers. The present generation of computers is based upon a model first developed in the United States in 1945 by J. von Neumann of IBM.

Time-consuming data storing and processing procedures are speeded up in NEC's small computer by automatic data searching and processing systems in two complementary units.

The Japanese further claim that their new computer can cut the time required to process a picture sent from a resource-survey satellite to three and half hours from the usual 200 to 300 hours, and this could be "several minutes" by the time such satellites is launched in 1987.

Convergent Technologies, a leading US supplier of desktop microcomputer systems to other manufacturers, has moved into Europe by signing a major contract with Plessey Office Systems, which could be worth £20m over the next few years. Convergent workstations will be supplied as part of the Plessey IBS Integrated Business Information System.

"Own label" agreements already exist between Convergent and such computer companies as Burroughs, NCR, Prime and several others. Last year its turnover shot up to \$98.5m, from only \$13.1m in 1981.

Under the latest deal, Plessey will incorporate Convergent work-

The serious side

By Geoffrey Ellis

This week we look at new books which cater for the more serious user, either at home, or in business. As usual, there are titles for machines, languages and general applications.

The Commodore 64 bridges the gap between the home and business user, and features in two new titles, The Sensible 64 by David Highmore and Liz Page, and Basic Subroutines for Commodore Computers from Eddie Adams. The former offers easy access to topics such as user-defined graphics, function keys, and the elusive sprite effects. The other title is in fact, no more than a compendium of useful routines for CBM machines, including the 64.

The prestige present this Christmas for the jet-setting business executive must be a hand-held computer. The recipient of the Epson HX20 should also be given a copy of Getting Started with the Epson HX20, by Stan Corlett and John Cain. It is aimed at the beginner, and after sections on setting up the machine, takes the owner through the various functions. By the end of the book the new user should be in a position to not only operate, but program his machine.

A substantial volume dealing with Basic, by Brian Walsh of Liverpool University, Proper Basic, moves from introductory pieces, through the intermediate section dealing with strings and arrays and the use of modular programming. It ends with a comprehensive advanced section on graphics, matrix handling, use of files, and a useful section of appendices.

Dr M. A. Bramer, a distinguished figure in the field of Artificial Intelligence, edits an in-depth study of games Computer Game Playing. In the introduction, Dr Bramer makes the point that computer games are one of the oldest and most successful manifestations of AI, with a paper on chess, dating back to 1950.

In his book he has pulled together a collection of essays which must be regarded as representing "the state of the Art" in their fields.

BOOKS

Two remaining titles deal with languages, LISP and Pascal. Pascal programs for Business by Tom Swan was developed on the Apple II computer with UCSD Pascal system, and apart from covering the normal utilities, business graphics, word processing and financial modelling, also contains a section of routines common to many of the applications.

Gillian Cattell and Arthur Norman have written LISP on the BBC micro which provides a useful primer to those seeking to advance from Basic to the more sophisticated atmosphere of LISP, a language widely used in AI applications.

The Sensible 64, (Micro Books) £5.5; Basic Subroutines for Commodore Computers (Wiley) £10.50; Getting Started with the Epson HX20, (Phoenix) £5.95; Proper Basic, (Wiley) £12.50; Computer Game Playing, (Wiley) £25.00; Pascal systems for business, (Wiley) £15.95; LISP on the BBC Microcomputer, (Acornsoft) £7.50.

Micro-game fever follows the Cube

By Paul Walton

Hungarian teenagers, spurred on by the international success of Rubik's cube, are designing games for the microcomputers which most of them have never even seen — their success has won them all the chance to buy micros in the shops this Christmas.

A competition held in Hungary last year brought in over 30,000 ideas for new computer games, of which a tenth were considered novel enough to warrant commercial exploitation. Twenty of these were so innovative that Commodore (UK) agreed to have them programmed, and now the Budapest-based company behind the scheme is cashing in on all this youthful enthusiasm.

Novotrade is importing the Commodore 64 and possibly also machines from Acorn into Hungary, the first time that micros have legitimately found their way into the eastern bloc. It has also linked up with a British electronics firm, Vulcan, setting up a distributor for its range of games and commercial packages called Andromeda Software.

Mr Gabor Renyi, Novotrade's managing director, explained that most communist countries could not afford to import expensive consumer goods like micros unless they could balance the purchase by exporting software or programming services. He was in London earlier this month (November 14-15) as part of the first ever Hungarian trade delegation to offer its software to the British market.

After Professor Rubik, Erno of the Institute of Architecture in Budapest, made a fortune from sale of the cube which he designed to express simple mathematical concepts, Mr Renyi saw that many Hungarian youngsters were trying to emulate their heroes success.

"Hungarians love puzzles and mathematical conundrums, and Rubik became a bit of a national hero when he was internationally acclaimed with his cube. The most important thing to remember when designing computer game is that the idea should be a new one — it doesn't matter if you can program or not."

Mr Renyi said that 300 of the ideas submitted in the competition were "novel, if not unique". Commodore (UK) which sponsored the prizes, picked up twenty of the ideas for programming.

Novotrade, which means "selling new technology", gave Hungary a distinct advantage over other Eastern Bloc countries in that it is free to trade in its newly liberalised mixed-market, and has the cash needed to import goods because it is owned by three of the countries largest banks.

Mr Renyi said that in 1982, when the competition was being organized, he also discovered a "quite staggering" black market trade in micros which exists in all the communist countries, at that time against the authorities' wishes.

He said that youngsters, and their reluctant fathers, from the Eastern Bloc countries which border onto Austria converge on the capital Vienna, where most kinds of high technology can be bought and that thousands of micros have been smuggled into Hungary.

Last Christmas Novotrade began selling its first computer games through the major distributors such as Philips, Commodore, the Parker Brothers games-maker, and lately through the Daily Mirror's Mirrorsoft venture. Mr Renyi has spent this year both publicising his computer games and arranging to bring the first micros into Hungary.

This Christmas the first couple of thousand Commodore 64 machines and peripherals — worth just around \$2 million — will be sold in Hungary's main chain of department stores. "I think that they are already sold out with advanced orders", added Mr Renyi.

He puts the thaw in trade relations down to the success of his computer games competition. Like other Hungarians at the software expo' he is looking to the "export of brain power", or software, to play a part in the continuing liberalisation of the economy.

Even the secret service man assigned to watch over the Hungarian software expo' seemed to spend all his time playing with the video games and trying to look inconspicuous.

The first Cunard steamer, the Britannia, at Boston U.S.A.



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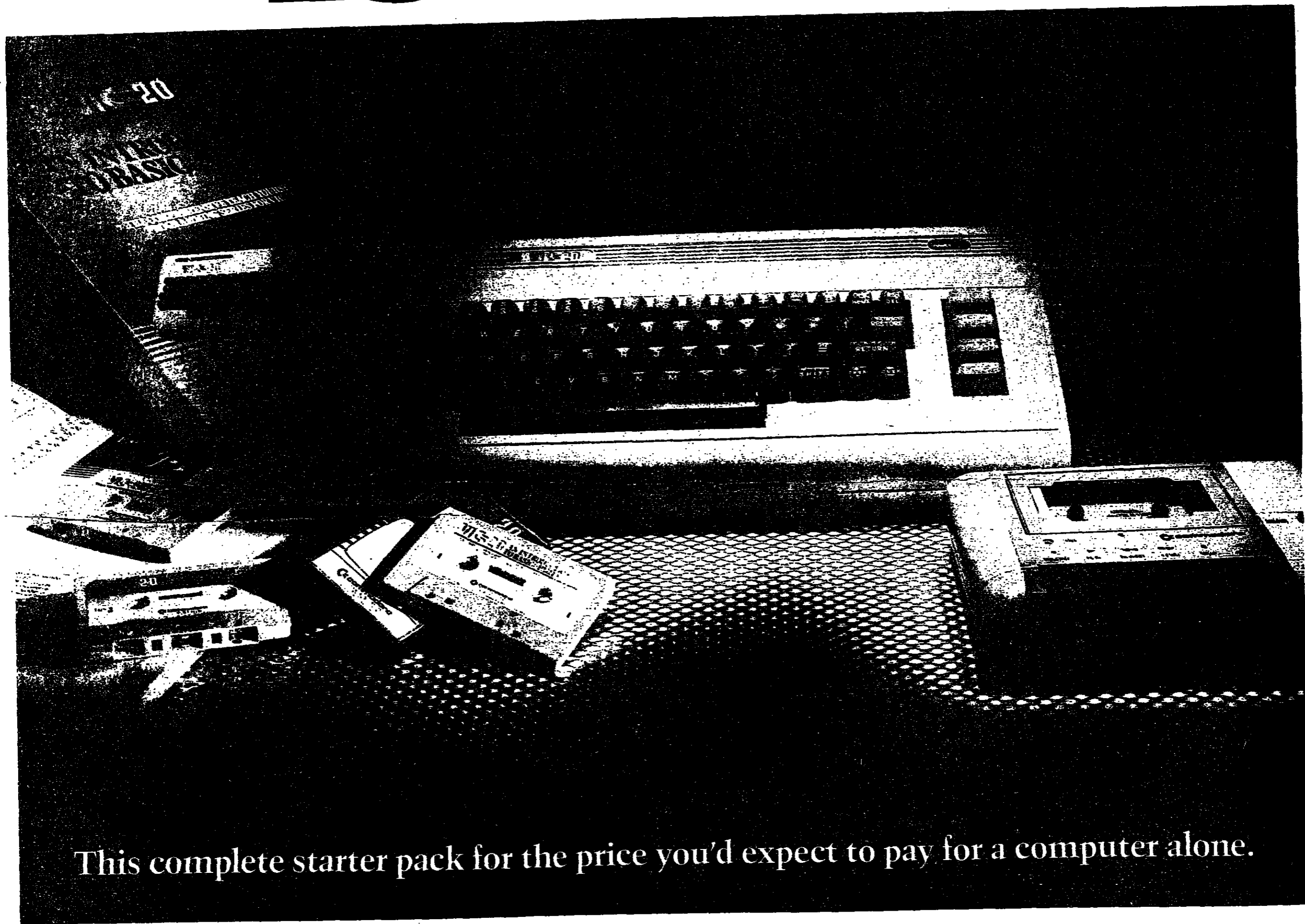
But no-one can deny the contribution we now make to Britain.

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حکومت الراجح

APPOINTMENTS

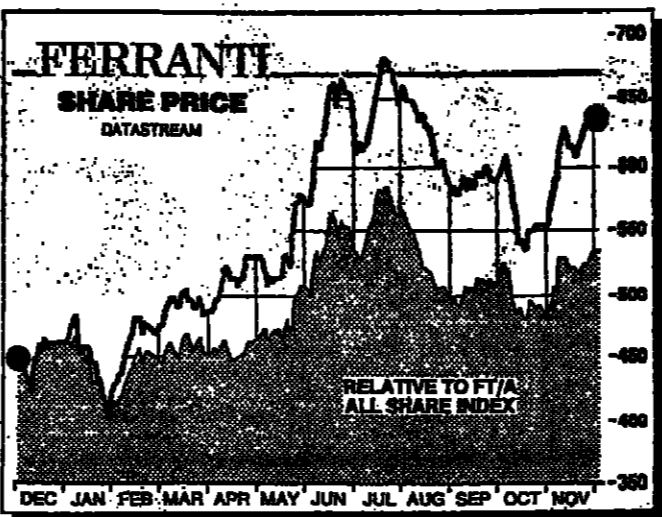
New overseas chief for Lloyds Bank

Lloyds Bank Overseas Division: Mr Peter Enterson is to become general manager, succeeding Mr Paul Clark...

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK edited by Michael Prest

Ferranti subsidiaries chip in

Ferranti is not just a high technology company living on the largesse of the Ministry of Defence. Its fortunes are also intricately linked with capital investment by the world's post offices and energy industries...



Even by the inflated standards of the Unlisted Securities Market, this is a creditable performance...

Merrydown is in the happy position of watching overheads diminish rapidly as a proportion of turnover. This explains why profits rose so fast while turnover went up by only 31 per cent to £1.88m.

Vinten Group

Vinten Group easily met the best of City forecasts for the first half, with pretax profits climbing from £1m to £1.8m.

Henara cleared to seek full listing

Henara, the new hair products company, will try again this week for a public flotation after winning a clean bill of health for the natural ingredients of its henna based hair colourings.

WALL STREET

Table with columns for Date, Price, and various stock market data.

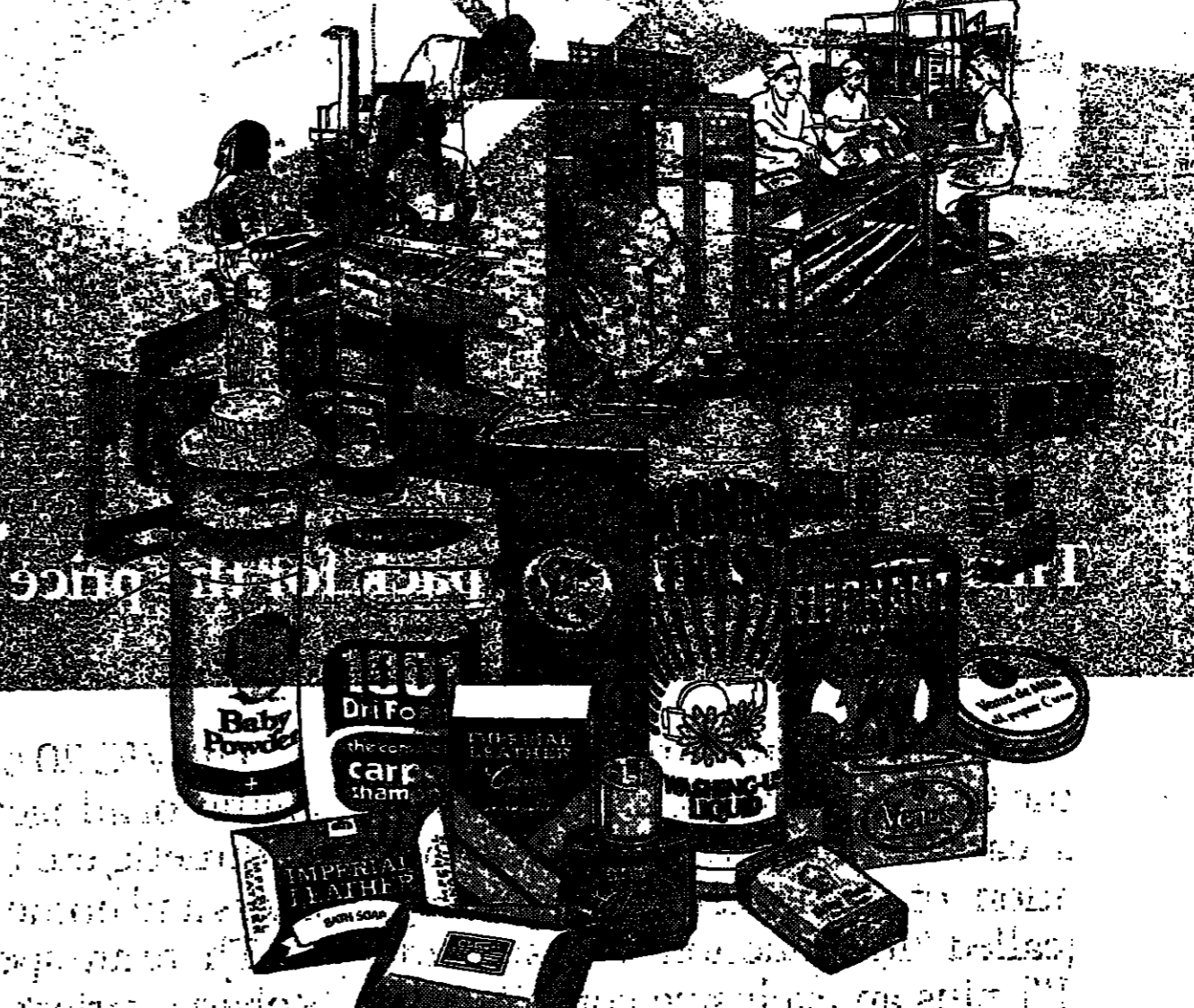
COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Table listing company news in brief, including names like Ferranti, Merrydown, and Vinten Group.

COMMODITIES

Table of London Commodity Prices for various goods like rubber, sugar, and oil.

Paterson Zochonis



Better than expected

Whilst profits have fallen compared with those of 1982, the reduction, particularly in the second half year, was not as great as earlier anticipated.

INTERNAL INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Financial summary table for Internal Investment Trust PLC, showing sales, profit, and dividends for 1982 and 1983.

Base Lending Rates table listing rates for various banks like ARN Bank, Barclays, and BCCI.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY table comparing 1983 and 1982 performance metrics like turnover, profit, and dividends.

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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Plessey soothes worries

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, Nov 28. Dealings end, Dec 8. Contango Day, Dec 12. Settlement Day, Dec 18.

Plessey, one of Britain's biggest telecommunications groups, was in the City yesterday attempting to soothe fears about the lack of export orders for its System X telephone exchange which it developed jointly with GEC.

Mr Peter Marshall, a director of Plessey, told the stock broker Laing & Cruckshank that he was excited by the prospects for System X and Plessey was taking a relaxed view of export prospects. He thought it might be two or three years before exports started to show through.

So far Plessey and GEC have failed to win any export orders of significant size because of the high installation charges for System X. But Plessey hopes to reduce the costs by boosting production from 500,000 lines to around 3 million lines by next year. Only then will the consortium be able to compete with its main overseas rivals.

Only last month, Plessey and GEC received a shot in the arm when System X was chosen for the £2.9m contract to supply the municipally-owned Hull telephone service. Although only a small contract, the news will certainly have attracted the

attention of British Telecom and others. Laing & Cruckshank has always been cautious of Plessey's potential, but after yesterday's visit has decided to raise its profits forecast for the year from £165m to £180m. This compares with £146m last year. The shares responded with a 2p rise to 112p, after 114p.

Shares of Habitat Mothercare tumbled 5p to 262p yesterday after last week's disappointing figures showing pre-tax profits of £16.5m, compared with market predictions of £17m. Analysts have downgraded their full-year estimates from £30m and £28m and most now think the shares are overvalued.

The rest of the equity market spent a lacklustre day still disturbed by the flop of the Government's latest sale of shares in Cable & Wireless.

Of the 100 million shares offered a minimum tender price of 275p, more than 77 million were eventually taken up, while the rest were left with the underwriters. The new party-paid shares opened at 96p before recovering to par at 100p, but closed at 92p. The ordinary shares ended the day 1p higher at 276p.

But the biggest shock of the day was in shares of BP, which tumbled 24p to 322p, wiping more than £450m off the group's value, when it announced that it had found nothing but water in the Mukluk project off Alaska.

The news from BP nipped in the bud any attempts at a rally by the rest of the market with the FT Index closing with a net gain of 0.7 at 742.0. Gilt also had a dull time with falls of up to 50p as sterling sank to its lowest level ever on the foreign exchange.

The stockbroker Capel Curc Myers on Friday was good news for a whisper short of the year's high. Speculators are hoping for a bid from the US.

Barrow Hepburn Group's deal has been well received in some quarters. The latest deal was Harbour Plastics, which it bought for an undisclosed sum just after paying £1.6m for Myria, the chemicals group. Observers hope for a profit recovery this year to more than £1m compared with £865,000. The shares held steady at 30p - 3p below the year's high.

ICL fell 5p to 51p on a report in The Sunday Times of trouble in many of its key areas, although the company put out a detailed statement rebutting the report after hours. It said neither ICL's chairman, nor its managing director, had seen a

secret document said to have been circulating among senior management outlining areas of concern. Shares of Dec Corp rose 4p to 374p after a circular to shareholders revealed an increase in fixed assets from £74.9m to £149.5m and some bullish news from Mr Alec Monk, chairman.

Hacksaw blade manufacturers Charles Baynes believes there are rich pickings to be had when hospital and local authority cleaning work is offered to private enterprise. It has just bought two private laundry companies, Clegg and Barratt Fabric Care Services. Baynes is paying £2.15m for Clegg, a Liverpool group, for which it will issue 3.15 million new shares, or 31.2 per cent of the equity, of which 2.5 million will be placed at 65p a share. Clegg's profits amount to £185,000 last year and net assets stood at £962,000.

Baynes will also issue an extra 147,000 shares for Barratt to satisfy the asking price of £100,000. For the nine months to September 30, Baynes made pre-tax profits of £230,000. Last year, it made a total of £384,000. Baynes lost 2p to 69p.



RECENT ISSUES table with columns for issue name, price, and other details.

BRITISH FUNDS table listing various fund names and their performance metrics.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table listing international market data.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table listing local government stock prices.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table listing financial institution rates.

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS table listing beverage industry data.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table listing various industrial stock prices.

Table of company shares (A-Z) with columns for company name, price, and change.

Table of company shares (M-Z) with columns for company name, price, and change.

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Table of company shares (M-Z) with columns for company name, price, and change.

Table of company shares (A-Z) with columns for company name, price, and change.

SHIPPING table listing shipping company data.

MINES table listing mining company data.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS table listing financial trust data.

INSURANCE table listing insurance company data.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS table listing investment trust data.

PROPERTY table listing real estate data.

PLANTATIONS table listing plantation company data.

MISCELLANEOUS table listing various other market data.

Table of company shares (A-Z) with columns for company name, price, and change.

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Table of company shares (M-Z) with columns for company name, price, and change.

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Table of company shares (M-Z) with columns for company name, price, and change.

Table of company shares (A-Z) with columns for company name, price, and change.

Table of company shares (M-Z) with columns for company name, price, and change.

Sterling: Spot and Forward table with columns for location, market rates, and other details.

Money Market Rates table listing various interest rates.

Other Markets table listing international market data.

Dollar Spot Rates table listing dollar exchange rates.

Euro \$ Deposits table listing Euro deposit rates.

Gold table listing gold market data.

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MOTOR RACING

Drivers off on the right track

By John Blunsden

Andrew Gilbert-Scott, the 25 year-old driver from Cookham, Berkshire, was taken into the motor racing limelight last night when Nelson Piquet, the world champion, presented him with the top Grovewood award for 1983 as the outstanding British and Commonwealth prospect of the year.

The presentation capped a season during which he won both the RAC and Townsend Thoresen Formula Ford 1600 championships and the end-of-season Formula Ford Festival at the wheel of a Reynard-Minister, sponsored by Brian de Zille, then went on to finish second in his first Formula Three race, driving a Murray Taylor Ralt-VW.

The costs of motor racing are such that Gilbert-Scott's prize of £5,000 may be only a token contribution towards his expenses during his intended season of British Formula Three championship racing in 1984, but the true value of the important Grovewood award cannot be calculated.

It is 20 years since John Durnley, the chairman of Grovewood Securities, instituted these awards of which there are now three each year, plus two special commendations as a way of gaining recognition for drivers of exceptional potential when they are still in the early stages of their career.

James Hunt and Alan Jones, both former world champions, and other British drivers of outstanding ability like Derek Bell, Nigel Mansell, Derek Warwick and John Watson, all gained early exposure by way of a Grovewood award and no fewer than 30 past winners have gone on to drive in Formula One.

This year's second award has gone to John Durnley, aged 23, from Fulham, after his first season in Formula Three. Like Gilbert-Scott, he graduated into motor racing from karting, and he has also shared with him the disappointment at having to give up racing in mid-season when the funds ran out.

For Gilbert-Scott last year this meant driving a combine harvester instead of a Formula Ford single-seater, and for Durnley a few months ago it meant enforced full-time self-employment as a builder. Although Formula Ford and Formula Three are firmly established as the conventional early rungs on the ladder to motor racing stardom, Steve Soper, the 32-year-old recipient of this year's third Grovewood award, has confined his driving to date to sports racing cars and success. During a highly successful 1983 season at the wheel of a Rover Vitesse he has been a consistent front-runner in the RAC British saloon car championship and has scored five outright victories.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated
Milk Cup
Fourth round replay
Everton v West Ham

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

NAANNIE/HOUSEKEEPER
An intelligent person with a flexible attitude is required for a busy household in North London area, and to assist in the housework, laundry and ironing. Must be a minimum of 3 years and 18 months. Must drive.

MIND SENSIBLE YOUNG PERSON
Wanted to cook, drive and shop on a part-time basis. Live-in family in North London. Other notes last. Tel. 01-229 7964.

SELGRAVIA BUREAU have immediately available housekeepers, cleaners, nannies and mothers help. Tel. 01-229 7964.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS REQUIRED
EXPERIENCED HOUSEKEEPER wanted for a busy household in London area. Aged 55 with 3 years experience in the job. Tel. 01-229 7964.

SUPER SECRETARIES

SECRETARY Publishers SW London
The Head of Marketing for this world renowned company needs a secretary with good secretarial skills, preferred age 21+. Training on word processing given if necessary. £5,500 including very attractive benefits.

Bernadette of Bond St. Recruitment Consultants. Tel. 01-423 1284.

TEAM WORK IN SW11 Two bright secretaries could be college leavers 16-18 years old for reception, typing and general office work. For immediate start. Tel. 01-229 7964.

JOHN FORCES with young successful secretaries in the world of advertising work. Tel. 01-229 7964.

PUBLISHING £7,000 p.a. secretaries in the world of advertising work. Tel. 01-229 7964.

SECRETARIES FOR ARCHITECTS and Designers. Tel. 01-229 7964.

SALES AND MARKETING APPOINTMENTS

SALES oriented applicant to sell a very special language course to top executives. Tel. 01-229 7964.

EDUCATIONAL CAREERS AND RETRAINING

WANTED: highly qualified young enthusiastic French teacher (male) for bilingual school. Tel. 01-229 7964.

COMPANY MEETING NOTICES

NOTICE is hereby given that the 12th Annual General Meeting of the above-named Company will be held at 11.00 a.m. on the 15th day of December 1983 at the registered office of the Company, 11, New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 3DF.

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Legal Appointments

Taylor Woodrow Construction Group
Solicitors or Barristers
The Group requires two graduate solicitors or barristers to join its busy Legal and Company Secretarial Department. Whilst applicants with only several years pertinent post-admission/call experience will be considered for the more junior position, applicants for the other senior post must be able to demonstrate that they have had at least five years relevant commercial experience, preferably within the industry.

TAYLOR WOODROW

COMMERCIAL SOLICITOR CONVEYANCING SOLICITOR
Commencing salary within the approximate range of £14000 - £19000 p.a. incl.
The Central Electricity Generating Board is part of the nationalised Electricity Supply Industry and has a statutory duty to develop and maintain a safe and efficient system of Electricity Supply throughout England and Wales.

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD HEADQUARTERS

PRIVATE PRACTICE
CO OPER: Well known property firm. £12,000.
REED COY: Quality work for solicitors in professional practice. £10,000.
REED COY: Quality work for solicitors in professional practice. £10,000.
REED COY: Quality work for solicitors in professional practice. £10,000.

Personnel Appointments
Unusual opportunity with International Merchant Banking Organisation
Internationally orientated licensed deposit-taking institution is seeking to expand its legal department. At least 3 years' experience is required together with some experience of litigation. Position could suit young lawyer or more experienced practitioner. Opportunities for involvement in corporate finance activities are available.

ALSO STEVENS BATESONS & CO. LIVERPOOL
COMPANY/COMMERCIAL SOLICITORS
As a result of continuing rapid expansion in our company/commercial department we have two vacancies:

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS
CAMBRIDGE: We are a busy City Solicitor to assist with domestic and commercial matters. Tel. 01-229 7964.

LINKLATERS & PAINES
Commercial Property Lawyers
Linklaters & Paines are looking for young lawyers wishing to specialise in commercial property law.

LINKLATERS & PAINES

Leading Law Publishers SWEET & MAXWELL LTD, require an ASSISTANT GENERAL EDITOR Current Law
A good honours Law Graduate and/or recently qualified lawyer is required as Assistant General Editor of Current Law.

SEIFERT SEDLEY & CO require CIVIL LITIGATION SOLICITOR

2/3 years' qualification experience in this field essential. Partnership prospects good, salary negotiable.

Apply with CV to: LARRY GRANT 3 Dyers Bldgs, Holborn EC1

INGLEDEW BOTTERELL ORCHE & PYBUS
Two Solicitors required for the following vacancies:
1. COMMERCIAL LITIGATION: We are looking for a newly qualified Solicitor with a good academic background and an interest in dealing with substantial litigation matters, to specialise in Building and Property related litigation.

SOLICITORS
Large City firm has a number of vacancies for newly qualified solicitors or persons who are shortly about to qualify to work in commercial litigation department with a strong international bias.

CORNWALL EAST CORNWALL GROUP OF PETTY SESSIONAL DIVISIONS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT
CC/PAD POINTS 3/12; £8,373 to £10,941

TAYLOR WOODROW ENERGY GROUP Oil & Gas Exploration
Commercial Lawyer
The Taylor Woodrow Energy Group requires a commercial lawyer with demonstrable experience within the oil industry of those legal activities associated with oil and gas exploration, development and production, both in the UK and overseas, including exploration licences, concession agreements, joint operating agreements, farm-outs and drilling contracts.

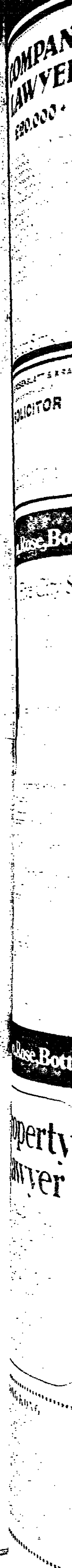
TAYLOR WOODROW

THE LAW SOCIETY Continuing Education Officer £14,317 - £21,249 p.a.
Applications are invited for this appointment which has been created following the approval by the Council of The Law Society of a scheme of compulsory continuing education.

NATIONAL THEATRE RIGHTS MANAGER
The National Theatre requires a Rights Manager. This post covers a wide range of work on contracts involving the activities of the National Theatre, including the negotiation and drafting of play licences.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES DEPARTMENT Assistant Solicitor
PO1 (1-5) £10,542 - £11,649 (inclusive)
Applications are invited for the above post in the Council's Legal Department. The work will be varied and interesting and should provide good experience for someone interested in developing a career in local government.

LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM
CORNWALL EAST CORNWALL GROUP OF PETTY SESSIONAL DIVISIONS PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT
CC/PAD POINTS 3/12; £8,373 to £10,941



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PERSONAL COLUMNS

WEDDINGS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND FUNERALS... THE TIMES... WEDDINGS... MARRIAGES... DEATHS... FUNERALS...

DEATHS... MARRIAGES... DEATHS... MARRIAGES... DEATHS... MARRIAGES... DEATHS... MARRIAGES...

ANNOUNCEMENTS... GALLERY POETS... W. H. AUDEN... A SPECIAL TRIBUTE... THE READERS WILL BE VERY PLEASED...

PERSONAL COLUMNS... HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS... BLADON LINES... THE MAGIC ISLANDS OF CORSIKA AND CORFU...

PERSONAL COLUMNS... CHRISTMAS ABROAD... HIGH QUALITY BEDROOM... CHRISTMAS IS THREE A SPECIAL YES...

PERSONAL COLUMNS... FOR SALE... HIGH QUALITY BEDROOM... CHRISTMAS IS THREE A SPECIAL YES...

PERSONAL COLUMNS... RENTALS... CARLTON GARDENS SW1... MOST appealing first flat... CHESTERTONS... 01-629 4513

PERSONAL COLUMNS... CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS... THE CASINO OF St. James... LONDON'S most exciting business...

La crème de la crème... Consultant Interviewer... Salary Package c. £12,000 pa... A professional approach and a minimum of 3 years' successful interviewing experience...

BIRTHS... WALL - On December 1st... BIRCH - On December 1st... GIBNEY - On December 1st... GIBNEY - On December 1st... GIBNEY - On December 1st...

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DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS... ROLINGCO... With reference to the announcement dated 30 November 1983 concerning the Cash Dividend payable to shareholders...

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UNITED KINGDOM RESIDENTS... COUNTRY PROPERTY... WESTBURY GROVE, W11... ROUSES & FLATS in SIX KEN... COUNTRY PROPERTY... WESTBURY GROVE, W11...

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ENTERTAINMENTS... OPERA & BALLET... BLOOMSBURY... ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA... THE ROYAL BALLET... THE ROYAL OPERA...

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THEATRES... MUSICAL OF THE YEAR... THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL... THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL... THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL...

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